BIG IDEA 64
God’s People Trust Him
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Big Idea Overview
   A one page overview of the Big Idea key concepts taught all three weeks of curriculum.

2. The Take Home Sheet
   Give this to your children to take home at the end of the session.

3. The Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Resources
   These are materials, used at the beginning of session all three weeks, to lead the children in a review of the Big Idea key concepts. They are all marked “Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt” along the edge.

4. Music Resources
   These are the lyrics, music and sign language for the Scripture Verse song and hymn used in small group activities, all three weeks of the curriculum.

5. Week 1 Curriculum
   Session Schedule and Planning Sheet
   Week 1 Lesson Plan for Regular Praise Factory Groups
   Week 1 Lesson Plan for Kindergarten Groups
   Week 1 Story
   Week 1 Small Group Resources

6. Week 2 Curriculum:
   Session Schedule and Planning Sheet
   Week 2 Lesson Plan for Regular Praise Factory Groups
   Week 2 Lesson Plan for Kindergarten Groups
   Week 2 Story
   Week 2 Small Group Resources

7. Week 3 Curriculum:
   Session Schedule and Planning Sheet
   Week 3 Lesson Plan for Regular Praise Factory Groups
   Week 3 Lesson Plan for Kindergarten Groups
   Week 3 Story
   Week 3 Small Group Resources
Directions for Teachers:

1. Let the lesson plan be your guide! It tells you through exactly where to find the resources and teaching tips for the activities you are doing.

2. Read through the lesson plan for the week. Use the Session Schedule & Planning Sheet to plan your session.

3. Prepare for either the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt review.

4. Read and prepare to tell the story for your children.

5. Prepare whatever activities you intend to use with your children. (Check the Small Group Activity Assignment Sheet your administrator may have given you with this binder.)

Directions for Administrators Preparing the Curriculum:

1. Use the pdf bookmarks to find the resources for the activities your teachers will be using.

2. Print out only what you need. There are a lot of resources since there are so many activities available for each week. You will help your teachers not feel overwhelmed if you give them only what they need.

   The curriculum is presented in color, but does not need to be printed out in color. Black and white is entirely acceptable and much cheaper! Remember that the curriculum is formatted for double-sided printing.

3. Note that many groups also use resources found in the Appendices. You will either want to also copy these for your teachers and include them with the other Small Group Resources, or make sure to include those appendices in your Teachers’ Binders. Below is a list of these other resources and the appendices in which they are found.

4. If using multiple small groups, you may want to include a Small Group Activity Assignment Sheet telling each of your teachers what activities they will be doing each week.

6. Read through the lesson plan for each week. It will tell you exactly what your teachers will need to teach their activities for any particular week.

Additional Resources Your Teachers May Need:

**Appendix B Drama:** Speaker Sheets (used in the play in Closing Large Group)

**Appendix C Games:** Directions for all Story Review, Big Idea, Scripture Verse Games

**Appendix D Crafts:** Presenter Sheets (used to present the craft in Closing Large Group)

**Appendix E VIPP:** VIPP Clue Cards and Games

**Appendix F Songs:** Song Games, Song Intro Sheets (used to present the songs in Closing Large Group)

**Appendix G Kindergarten:** VIPP Clue Cards, Song Games, Best Games for Kindergarteners
Unit 12 Big Question: “How Should God’s People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!”
Unit 12 Scripture Verse: “Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.” Ephesians 5:2

Big Idea Concept: God’s People Trust Him
Trusting God means resting joyfully in God’s care and plan. God’s people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. He only has them do what is for His glory and their good. He is always able to take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard. God’s people know that they will not trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. But they know that God’s Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, will help them to trust God more and more.

Scripture Verse
Meditation and Memory/Games Version: Proverbs 3:5-6
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Stories
Week 1    A Young Girl Trusts the Lord   Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56
Week 2    The God of the Impossible
Week 3    Not Even a Foot of Land   Genesis 12-13

Big Idea ACTS Prayer
A  Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
C  Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.
T  Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.
S  Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.

Songs
Hymn       Trust and Obey, v.2
Scripture Song    Trust in the LORD  Proverbs 3:5-6
Big Idea Concept
Trusting God means resting joyfully in God’s care and plan. God’s people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. He only has them do what is for His glory and their good. He is always able to take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard. God’s people know that they will not trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. But they know that God’s Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, will help them to trust God more and more.

Scripture Verse
Meditation Version: 1 John 1:8-9
“Trust in the Lord, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Shortened Memory/Games Version: 1 John 1:9
“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Big Idea ACTS Prayer
A Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
C Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.
T Thank God for being will to forgive all our sins if we confess them and trust in Christ as our Savior.
S Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.

Bible Story & Supplemental Reading
The Prodigal Son: Luke 15
Leading Little Ones to God #48: We Must Confess Our Sins

Songs
Hymn: Trust and Obey, Verse 2
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs

Big Idea Hymn Connection: God is the only one who perfectly knows and understand His plans. Many times God’s people must trust Him and obey Him when there are many things they cannot understand. As hard as this may be at times, they know that because God is completely powerful, wise, good, and perfect in His timing, they can always trust that He knows best. This is the way to be “happy in Jesus.”

Scripture Song: Trust in the Lord: Proverbs 3:5-6
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs

Big Idea Scripture Song Connection: This Scripture verse encourages God’s people to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.
**Trust in the Lord**

**Trust in the Lord**
Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, And lean not on your own understanding, In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart!

Adapted from Proverbs 3:5-6

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**Verse 2**
Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a grief or a loss, Not a frown or a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey.

**Refrain**
Trust and obey, for there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Words: John H. Sammis  Music: Daniel B. Towner  Public Domain
The resources you will need for The Echo Chamber or the Folder Hunt are included on the next few pages. They are used all three weeks of the curriculum.

1. Echo Chamber Schedule
   This provides a basic script of Echo Chamber and a rotation through which key concepts are spoken and which sung to keep things fresh.

2. The WoGoLOA Rules
   The basic Praise Factory rules that help the children know how to act to help each other worship God and to love one another during the session.

3. The WoGoLOA Rules Chant
   A chant of the WoGoLOA Rules that can be sung antiphonally between two groups of children, or between the leaders and the children. The music for this chant is found as the first song of every CD in the Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs.

4. The Unit Big Question/Song
   Each of the 16 Praise Factory Units has a Unit Big Question Song into which the Big Ideas in a particular unit fit. A review of the Big Question reminds children of the overarching concept behind the particular Big Idea they are learning. This Big Question can be spoken or sung. The music for the Unit Big Question Song is found at the beginning of each unit’s songs in the Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs.

5. The Unit Scripture Verse/Song
   Each of the 16 Praise Factory Units has a Unit Scripture Verse that goes along with the Unit Big Question. A review of this Unit Scripture Verse reminds the children that the truths they are learning come from God’s Word. This Scripture Verse can be spoken or sung. The music for the Unit Scripture Verse Song is found at the beginning of each unit’s songs in the Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs, immediately after the Unit Big Question Song.

6. The Big Idea Concept Sign
   This is a sign of the meaning of the particular Big Idea you are learning. This provides the foundation for the story they hear.

7. The Big Idea Scripture Verse
   This is the Scripture Verse that supports and clarifies the Big Idea the children are learning. It is important for the children to know that the Big Idea truths come from God’s Word, not just our own ideas.

Other Resources You Will Need:
Folders (if you are doing the Folder Hunt)
CD player and The Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
PURPOSE OF THE ECHO CHAMBER: To briefly review key concepts in a way that gets out the wiggles! Keep this section short and active!

Welcome and Transition into Echo Chamber  “Welcome to Praise Factory! Good morning, children! I’d like all the boys to sit down on the rug over here on my left; and all the girls to sit down on the rug over here on my right (or whatever groupings you choose.)”

Introduce the Echo Chamber  “We’re starting out in our Echo Chamber…a place where important things are said and repeated, sometimes in some very unusual ways!”

Review the Key Concepts  “Let review the key concepts we are learning in Praise Factory and get some wiggles out at the same time.” (Follow the schedule of activities listed below. For more interaction, choose a movement/sound for the children to make as they sing the song. See suggestions listed below and on the Big Question Song and Scripture Song sheets in your curriculum.)

BIG IDEA 64 KEY CONCEPTS USED IN ECHO CHAMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WoGoLOA Rules</th>
<th>Always the same, see Rules and Chant on following pages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>Unit 12 Big Question: How Should God's People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!</td>
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<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>Unit 12 Scripture Verse: Live a Life of Love Just as Christ Loved You. Ephesians 5:2</td>
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<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>Big Idea 64 Concept: God's People Trust Him</td>
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Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Week 1 of Big Idea</th>
<th>Week 2 of Big Idea</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
<td>GROUP sings Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>GROUP sings verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALL OF THE RESOURCES YOU NEED ARE FOUND IN THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW THIS SCHEDULE
How to do the singing portion:
• Sing/listen to the song through once without actions.
• Choose a movement (from the Movement Grab Bag, if using one) for the class to do while singing the song through once/twice more. Make this an aerobic activity to help get the wiggles out!
• Music for the WoGoLOA Chant is always the first song on each CD of the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs. The music for the Big Question and Unit Scripture Verse songs are always the first two songs of the music for each unit, also found on the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs.

Prayer “Let’s pray.” (Lead brief prayer of praise and ask for the Spirit’s work in hearts and minds.)

Transition to Story Time “Ok, now, it’s to be dismissed for today’s Big Idea story. I have something I want you to do. When I say the word ‘---’ (choose a word, preferably a little bit random or silly), I want everyone who is….(choose a subset of the group, such as everyone who is six or who has pink on, etc.) to stand up and (choose an action) as you walk SLOWLY to the other room, chairs, etc for story time.” Say your cue word and dismiss them by subset until all have been dismissed.

Resources Needed: Poster boards of Unit and Big Idea Concepts and WoGoLOA Rules & Chant
Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
CD player

Prep Needed: Review Concepts;
Find Correct CD Track for song;
Choose actions to use for song and transition to story time
WORSHIP GOD!
joyfully take part
listen to others
obey your teachers

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!
be kind
be encouraging
help others

THE WO GO LOA RULES
**WO GO LOA RULES CHANT**

Split group into Part A and Part B, turn on the music and do the chant!

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

**Part A:**

WoGo means...
Sound off...
Joyfully....
Listen...
Obey...

**Part B:**

... Worship God!
...1-2-3!
...take part!
...to others!
...Your teachers!

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

**LOA means...**

Sound off...
Be...
Be en...
Help...

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

... Love One Another!
...1-2-3
...kind
...couraging
...others!
How should God’s people live each day?
They should live like Jesus!
How should God’s people live each day?
How should God’s people live each day?
How should God’s people live each day?
They should live like Jesus!

Four Movement Ideas for the Big Question Song
Add clapping, stomping, or one of these movement ideas after the children have learned the song. You may want to put these movement ideas and others in a Movement Grab Bag. Each session, either you or a child can draw a movement from the Grab Bag for everyone to do.

#1 Choose an action: Give the children an action to do as they sing the song, such as patting head, rubbing stomach, marching in place, etc.

#2 Choose a voice: Give the children a voice to imitate, such as baby voice, old person’s voice, whisper voice, opera voice, etc. to sing the song in.

#3 Choose an animal: Give the children an animal to imitate AS THEY STAND IN PLACE, such as a gorilla, flapping wings of a bird, horse galloping in place, etc. You will need to remind the children that they are to stand in place (unless you have a lot of room or not a lot of children). If you do allow them to move around the room, make sure you tell them to sit down in place at the end of the song or some other direction that keeps everything under control at the end of the song.

#4 Tubas and Drums Have one group of children do a “Om-pah-pah” tuba or a “boom-chick, boom-chick’ drum accompaniment while the other group sings. Then switch parts.
Big Question #12 Song

How Should God's People Live Each Day?

How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus! How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus!
“Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.” Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love, Live a life of love,

Live a life of love,

Just as Christ loved you.

Ephesians Five, Two. O-le!

**Four Movement Ideas for the Scripture Song**

Add clapping, stomping, or one of these movement ideas after the children have learned the song.

**#1 Choose an action:** Give the children an action to do as they sing the song, such as patting head, rubbing stomach, marching in place, etc.

**#2 Choose a voice:** Give the children a voice to imitate, such as baby voice, old person’s voice, whisper voice, opera voice, etc. to sing the song in.

**#3 Choose an animal:** Give the children an animal to imitate AS THEY STAND IN PLACE, such as a gorilla, flapping wings of a bird, horse galloping in place, etc. You will need to remind the children that they are to stand in place (unless you have a lot of room or not a lot of children). If you do allow them to move around the room, make sure you tell them to sit down in place at the end of the song or some other direction that keeps everything under control at the end of the song.

**#4 Tubas and Drums** Have one group of children do a “Om-pah-pah” tuba or a “boom-chick, boom-chick’ drum accompaniment while the other group sings. Then switch parts.
Big Question #12 Scripture Song

Live a Life of Love

adapted from Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love, live a life of love just as Christ loved you. E-phe-sians Five, twelve. O-le!
Big Idea 64:

God's People Trust Him

Trusting God means resting joyfully in God’s care and plan.

God’s people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing.

He only has them do what is for His glory and their good. He is always able to take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard.

God’s people know that they will not trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. But they know that God’s Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, will help them to trust God more and more.
Meditation and Memory Version

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!

The lyrics, music and sign language you will use in the Scripture Song and the Hymn Groups are included on the next few pages. They are used all three weeks of the curriculum.

1. Big Idea Scripture Song: Lyrics and Music
   The lyrics of the song are provided on one page and the piano and guitar music included on the next. The music to this song is included on the Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs by unit.

2. Big Idea Scripture Song: Sign Language Resources
   These are all the signs available for use with the Scripture Song. Choose as many or as few as you think appropriate for your children to learn.

SOMETIMES:

3. Alternate Big Idea Scripture Song: Lyrics and Music
   Sometimes an additional Scripture Song is included. This is either because it was a bit easier or simply because it fit the Big Idea so well. It is also included on the Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs, immediately after the regular Big Idea Scripture Song. Note: there is no discussion sheet of questions for this song.

4. Alternate Big Idea Scripture Song: Sign Language Resources
   Sign language for the alternate Scripture song.

5. Hymn: Lyrics and Music
   This is a hymn or portion of a hymn that reflects the Big Idea. Check the Hymn Discussion Questions in each week’s curriculum to see which verse/s are used with your Big Idea. It usually is just one or two of them.

6. Hymn: Sign Language Resources
   Sign language for the hymn.

Other Resources You Will Need:
CD player
The Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
Scripture Song or Hymn Discussion Sheets (found in each week’s curriculum)
Trust in the LORD
Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all of your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding,
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.
Trust in the LORD with all your heart!
Trust the LORD with all your heart!
Trust in the Lord

adapted from Proverbs 3:5-6

Constance Dever

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Trust in the LORD with all your heart!

Trust in the LORD with all your heart! Trust in the LORD with all your heart!

all your heart! Trust in the LORD with all your heart!
Trust Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs

Trust in the LORD: Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust, Lean on
Place right S under left S hand. Move hands up in unison towards the left shoulder.

In
Push the fingers of the right hand into the left C hand.

LORD
Move the right L hand from the left shoulder to the right waist.

With
Place the A hands together, and rotate them in a circle.

All
Rotate flat right hand, palm facing out around stationary flat left hand palm facing in.

Your
Move the flat right hand straight out, as if towards another person.

Heart
With index fingers form a heart shape over the heart.

Not
Place thumb of right A hand under chin. Move outward in a slight arc.

Own
Place the palm of the right flat hand on the chest.
Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs

Trust in the LORD: Proverbs 3:5-6
Continued

Understanding
Flick the right index finger in front of the eyes, palm towards face.

Ways, Paths
Place both hands, in front of the body with fingers pointing forward and palms facing. Move the hands forward, while simultaneously moving them side to side.

Acknowledge
Start with open hands and fingertips touching the chest. Move the hands away from the body in an arc. Hands should end open in front of body palms up.

He, Him
Start with right hand at forehead as if grasping the bill of a hat, and move right hand forward a short distance. Then point right index finger forward.

Will
Move the right flat hand from beside the right cheek, forward a short distance. Palm should be facing left.

Make
Place right S hand on top of left S hand. Rotate hands inward at the same time.

Straight
With the right hand above the left, palms facing opposite directions, the right hand moves its little finger’s edge along the thumb edge of the left hand in a straight line outward.
Trust and Obey

Verse 1

When we walk with the Lord, in the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will; He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Verse 2

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.  (Refrain)

Big Idea References  Big Idea #64: verse 2  Big Idea #68: verse 1

Words  John H. Sammis  Music  Daniel B. Towner
1. When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way! Let us
2. Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a

do His good will; He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way, To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.
Not
Place thumb of right hand under chin. Move outward in a slight arc.

Burden
Place both curved hands on right shoulder.

We
Point right index finger down and move hand from the right shoulder to the left shoulder.

Bear
Hold both slightly curved hands, palms up and facing forward. Move them in unison in an arc to the left or to the right.

Sorrow, Frown
With open hands and palms facing the body, move hands from the eyes down the face.

Share
Move the little finger edge of the right flat hand back and forth, along the upturned flat left hand between the wrist and the fingers.

But
Cross the index fingers of both hands in front of the body. Then pull the hands apart.

Our
Move curved right hand from left shoulder to the right shoulder.

Toil
Make fists with both hands. Rap the back of the left wrist with the inside of the right wrist a couple of times.
**He**  
Start with right hand at forehead as if grasping the bill of a hat, and move right hand forward a short distance. Then point right index finger forward.

**Doth**  
Point C hands downward and move them from one side to the other, at the same time.

**Richly**  
Place the upturned right hand, fingers all touching, in the left upturned hand. Then lift the right down-turned 5 hand up from the left hand.

**Repay**  
Make A hands, knuckles facing up, with index fingers encircling the thumb tips. Then pivot hands down so that the knuckles face out.

**Grief**  
Rotate both flat hands, palms toward body, in front of the head in opposite directions.

**Loss**  
Touch fingers and thumbs together of each hand, palms facing up. Drop hands down and open them as if dropping something.

**Cross**  
Using the right C hand outline a cross by making a motion down and then a motion from left to right.

**Blest**  
Start with both A hands together in front of the mouth with palms facing. Then move hands down so that they are palms down in front of the body.

**If**  
With F hands, palms facing, in front of the body, move the left F hand down while moving the right F hand up.
Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs

Trust and Obey, verse 2

Continued

**Trust**
Place right S under left S hand. Move hands up in unison towards the left shoulder.

**Obey**
Place both A hands, palms towards body, on the forehead. Move hands down and then out so that hands are flat and palms are facing up.

Refrain begins on next page.
Trust
Place right S under left S hand. Move hands up in unison towards the left shoulder.

Obey
Place both A hands, palms towards body, on the forehead. Move hands down and then out so that hands are flat and palms are facing up.

There’s
Move the right I hand, palm facing left, out from the mouth.

No
Bring the right index and middle fingers down to meet the right thumb.

Other
Start with right thumb up. Turn hand to the right so thumb is pointing right.

Way
Place both hands, in front of the body with fingers pointing forward and palms facing. Move the hands forward, while simultaneously moving them side to side.

Happy
Place open right hand on chest, palm facing body. Stroke heart repeatedly, moving up and off the heart with each stroke.

In
Hold fingers of right hand closely together and push the fingers into the left C hand.

Jesus
Point the middle finger of each hand into the palm of the opposite hand.
But
Cross the index fingers of both hands in front of the body. Then pull the hands apart.
**SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>______</td>
<td><strong>Arrive no later than this to prepare for session</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>My preparations:</strong></td>
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<td>____________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Children arrive</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Concept Introduction/Review (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt)</strong></td>
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### Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Week 1 of Big Idea</th>
<th>Week 2 of Big Idea</th>
<th>Week 3 of Big Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
<td>GROUP sings Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>GROUP sings verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How to do the singing portion:**

- Sing/listen to the song through once without actions.
- Choose a movement (from the Movement Grab Bag, if using one) for the class to do while singing the song through once/twice more. Make this an aerobic activity to help get the wiggles out!
- Music for the WoGoLOA Chant is always the first song on each CD of the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs. The music for the Big Question and Unit Scripture Verse songs are always the first two songs of the music for each unit, also found on the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs.

### Story time

Drama Group (or other designated) teacher tells story in a dramatic fashion, having decorated area with lots of props to be able to point to as they tell it. Use outline as a guide, adding in interested details from the text. Practice story. Do not just read it! Do not let it run more than 15 minutes.
**SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>____</td>
<td><strong>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snack and Discussion Time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____</td>
<td><strong>Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____</td>
<td><strong>Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about., using the story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>What does the snack have to do with the story?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>____</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>____</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>____</td>
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<tr>
<td>____</td>
<td><strong>If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____</td>
<td><strong>The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity., if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____</td>
<td><strong>ACTS Prayer Time</strong> <em>(Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead the children in an ACTS prayer incorporating an ACTS related to the Big Idea , Scripture verse or story, (see lesson plan and discussion sheets for ideas) AS WELL AS any personal prayers. Ask for volunteers to pray the prayer, but never force a child to pray. Note: Drama Group will probably want to do this before Activity time, instead of after Activity Time, as this schedule suggests)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____</td>
<td><strong>Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have small groups present in the following order: Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups. Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 1 Lesson Plan

Opening Large Group Time

All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

Activities:
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

Resources:
- All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 64 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 64 Scripture Verse Sign
- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

Story

Activities:
- Tell story
- Close in Prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

Resources:
- Story: A Young Girl Trusts the Lord
  Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56
- Story Outline p.19
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

Don’t Forget!
Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery the Drama Group will later use in their play

Story-telling Refresher:
Introduction pp.23-25
Appendices A, B
WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time
All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer, and do one or more Small Group Activities

Snack

(White) grape juice or ginger ale “wine” of Mary’s vow at the Erusin. Pita bread and hummus (and/or figs, pomegranates, grapes, dates, etc.) huppah “provisions”

ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
C Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.
T Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.
S Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.

Drama

Activities:
Discuss story
Fill in Speaker Sheets
Practice Play

Resources:
Plan-a-Play Story Guide, p.20
Speaker Sheets   Appendix B, Drama Group

Story Review Game: Secret Agent

Activities:
Discuss story
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

Resources:
Story Review Discussion Questions Sheet  pp.21-22
Story Review Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups

Snack & ACTS Prayer Refresher: Introduction pp.24-25

Choosing Activities Refresher:
Introduction pp.22,41-45

Drama Refresher:
Introduction pp.23-25

ACTS Prayer Refresher:
Appendix B

Story Review Game Refresher:
Introduction pp.35-36
Appendix C
WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Obey! Omit!

**Activities:**
- Discuss Big Idea
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 23-24
- Big Idea Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups

Big Idea Craft: The Angel Gabriel

**Activities:**
- Discuss Story
- Fill in Presenter Sheets
- Make Craft

**Resources:**
- Big Idea-Craft Connection Guide, p.31
- Craft Directions, p.32
- Presenter Sheets, Appendix D: Craft Group

VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Mix and Match

**Activities:**
- Discuss story
- Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game
- Decorate VIPP Clue Cards Pray for VIPP
- Decorate VIPP Prayer Letter

**Resources:**
- VIPP Game Directions: Appendix E: VIPP Group
- VIPP Prayer Letter

Scripture Verse Game: Simon Says How

**Activities:**
- Discuss Scripture Verse
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp.25-26
- Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
Week 1 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Scripture Song: Trust in the Lord: Proverbs 3:5-6

Activities:
Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Mimic Me!
(and Scripture Verse Game, see above)
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

Resources:
Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet  p.25-26
Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs

Hymn: Trust and Obey: Verse 2

Activities:
Discuss Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Mimic Me!
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

Resources:
Hymn Discussion Questions Sheet, p.29-30
Hymn Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
**WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN**

**Closing Large Group Time**

*The Small Groups make a presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity.*

### Activity Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drama</th>
<th>The Play, Introduced by the Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Story Review Game</td>
<td>Ask Story Review Questions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Big Idea Game   | Read the Big Idea  
                  Ask Big Idea Quiz Questions |
| Big Idea Craft | Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets |
| VIPP Game and Clue Cards | Share Clues about VIPP  
                              Pray for the VIPP |
| Scripture Verse Game | Read Scripture Verse  
                           Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions |
| Scripture Song  | Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language |
| Hymn          | Sing Hymn with Sign Language |

### Closing Prayer

*Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C*

*Give Out Take Home Sheets*
WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN

Opening Large Group Time
All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

Activities:
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

Resources:
All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea

- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 64 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 64 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

Story

Activities:
- Tell story
- Close in prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

Resources:
Story: A Young Girl Trusts the Lord
Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56
Story Outline p.19
Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
Props, Costumes and Scenery

Don’t Forget!
Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery the Drama Group will later use in their play

Story-telling Refresher:
Introduction pp.23-25
Appendices A, B
Small Group Activities:  
Snack and Discussion Time

All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer before doing Small Group activities, listed on the next page.

Snack

(White) grape juice or ginger ale “wine” of Mary’s vow at the Erusin. Pita bread and hummus (and/or figs, pomegranates, grapes, dates, etc.) huppah “provisions”

ACTS Prayer

A. Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
C. Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.
T. Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.
S. Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.
Small Group Activities:
Activity Time:

After snack and discussion time, each group of Kindergarteners take part in one or two activities, as time allows.

Group 1 Activities

Use Group 1 Activities if you have just one Kindergarten group; or, for half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 1, First Activity: Story Review Game

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Story Review/Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Kindergarten Games: Story Review, Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 1, Second Activity: Scripture Song: Trust in the Lord: Proverbs 3:5-6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss Scripture Verse and Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn Song and Sign Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Song Game: <strong>Mimic Me!</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet pp.71-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Game Directions, Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Activity Time, continued**

**Group 2 Activities**

*Use Group 2 Activities for the other half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.*

**Group 2, First Activity: Act-It-Out**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Act out story all together</td>
<td>Act-It-Out Sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plan-a-Play Story Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Story, pp. 61-63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Act-It-Out Refresher:
- Introduction pp. 41-42
- Appendix B

*Then, as time allows, followed by…*

**Group 2, Second Activity: Big Idea Game**

*(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play Game</td>
<td>Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time</td>
<td>Best Kindergarten Games:: Big Idea Games, Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Big Idea Game Refresher:
- Introduction pp. 35-36
- Appendix C
Closing Large Group Time

The Small Groups can make presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity. These are optional for the Kindergarten groups.

Activity Presentations

**Story Review/Big Idea Game**
- Ask Story Review/Big Idea Questions

**VIPP Game and Clue Cards**
- Share Clues about VIPP
- Pray for the VIPP

**Act-It-Out**
- Act out a few actions from Beginning, Middle, End as teacher tells the story briefly

**Scripture Song**
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

**Scripture Verse Game**
- Read Scripture Verse
- Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

**Closing Prayer**

**Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C**

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
A Young Girl Trusts the Lord
Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56
by Connie Dever

Story
Our story today takes place about 2000 years ago in the tiny town of Nazareth. It was set among the rolling hills of Galilee in the northern part of Israel.

A girl maybe no more than fourteen years old and a young man maybe only nineteen years old, stood near each other with their fathers—the center of everyone’s attention. Mothers, sisters, brothers, grandparents from both families eagerly watched. It was the day of Erusin—Betrothal Day—for this young man and woman.

“Here is the ‘mohar’—fifty shekels of silver—the Bible requires as our family’s promise to yours that my son will marry your daughter within the year,” the boy’s father said to the girl’s father as he handed over a heavy bag of coins.

“In return, we promise to give you our daughter, Mary, to your son to be his bride,” Mary's father told the boy’s father. “We promise that she will stay pure, never having any man as her husband or having any babies before she gets married to him. She will keep herself pure for your son when they are married.” The men shook hands in agreement.

Then it was the boy’s turn. “Here, Mary, are my ‘mattan,’—my special gifts of love—to you,” the man told the young woman, as he gave her jewelry of gold and silver. “These are a sign of my promise to take you to be my wife within the year, as soon as I get the ‘huppah’—the special bridal room—built. I will come back for you as soon as I have your place ready for you.” Mary graciously took the young man's gifts.

The fathers discussed the details of the covenant their families were making with each other. A marriage was never about just the young man and woman. It was about two whole families being joined together as one. When everything was agreed upon, it was written down on a Ketubah, the written covenant.

Then Mary’s father said to her, “Mary, we are going to pray to the Lord, then I will read you the words of the Ketubah. Listen carefully to them. If you agree to this covenant and will be betrothed to Joseph, then drink the cup of wine. Once you have done this, it becomes a solemn promise made before God. You must not break it.”

“Yes, Father, I understand,” Mary replied.

Mary’s father prayed, “Blessed art Thou, Eternal LORD our God, Creator of heaven and earth, who has given us the fruit of the vine. Amen.”

All eyes turned to Mary as her father read the Ketubah, the written agreement, to her. When her father finished, Mary took the cup and drank without any hesitation. She knew that Joseph was a young man who loved and trusted in the Lord. Because he rested in God’s goodness, wisdom and power, she knew that he would take good care of her. The fathers each signed the Ketubah. Joseph and Mary were to be
married! Everyone cheered; but Joseph, most of all, because he knew that Mary trusted and loved the Lord, too. She rested joyfully in what God wanted for her life. He would have a wonderful wife and mother for their children one day. Then, everyone enjoyed a big feast together, celebrating the happy promises made that day.

Both Mary and Joseph had special things to do to get ready for the wedding. Joseph had to plan and build the huppah onto his family’s house, getting it ready for his future wife. He had to build it and then decorate it beautifully. He had to fill it with lots of food and drink. Jewish custom was that Mary and Joseph would stay in it together without coming out for anything for the first seven days of their marriage. For most young men, it took a whole year to get the huppah ready. And how did he know when it was ready? Only when his father said it was beautiful enough, could the young man get his bride.

Making a beautiful huppah for his bride might have been difficult for many young men, but Joseph would have had little trouble. He was a carpenter and knew how to build and carve all sorts of lovely decorations out of wood. The huppah would be an especially fun project for him. As he built it, he could think about Mary and the new life they would have together.

Mary and her family were busy, too. First of all, a special veil had to be made for Mary. She had to wear this veil every time she went out of her house. This veil was to tell everyone that she was promised in marriage. Her father and mother both were busy preparing her ‘shiluhim’, her things to take with her for new home, as well as the oil lamps for the procession to Joseph’s house. Mary had to have her all things and the lamps packed and ready for whenever Joseph might come and send for her. She did not know what day or what hour he would come. Even Joseph wouldn’t know what day it would be until his father told him. She only knew it would be whenever Joseph’s father decided that the huppah was ready.

Perhaps Mary didn’t know when it would be, but she could just imagine what that wonderful night would be like. If Joseph was like most of the boys, he would surprise Mary by coming at midnight for her, just when she least expected it. It would be late, everyone long asleep in their beds, when there would be a sudden knock at the door. They would open the door to a whole crowd of musicians, family, friends who had come to take Mary to her husband.

Mary’s house would sudden be a flurry of hurry and excitement. They would dress Mary like a queen, with a beautiful dress and jewelry and even a crown. They would pick up all her things and carry them and her to Joseph’s family’s house, singing, cheering and playing music all the way, by the light of the oil lamps Mary had prepared.

When the parade reached Joseph’s family’s house, they would take Mary to Joseph, who would be dressed as a handsome king. They would read and sign the final covenant promising before God to treat each other well, and then they would be married! What a wonderful night that would be!

Oh, but now all she could do it wait and wait. When would the knock at the door come? When would it be time for this most important day of her life? It would be easy for Mary to be impatient, sad and grumpy, but Mary was a girl who had decided to trust the Lord. She could joyfully rest in God’s care and
plan. She could trust Him because she knew that He was completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. She believed that He would do for her what was for His glory and her good. He would always be able to take care of her and help her do whatever He wanted her to do, even if it is very hard. She could even trust Him with this most important of days.

But one day something very, very surprising happened to Mary that was to change all of Mary’s and Joseph’s plans and dreams for their wedding. An angel of the Lord named Gabriel appeared to her and said,

(Luke 1:28-56, NIV)

"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. [Why would an angel speak to her, a plain, ordinary girl and tell her that she was highly favored by God!] But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin[--I have no husband and have promised to not have babies until I do]?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. [You know your relative Elizabeth who everyone said could never have children. She is over sixty years old, yet she is six months pregnant with a baby who will be the special messenger for your son!] For nothing is impossible with God."

[Mary’s mind must have been filled with so many thoughts and questions. “Am I to become a mother without being married to a man? Will my family or Joseph’s family believe me when I tell them or will they think I am lying? If they don’t, the wedding will be off and they might even kill me as punishment if they think I’ve been with a man who’s not my husband. What should I do?”

It would be easy for Mary to be worried and sad, but in her heart, she knew what to do. Mary was a girl who had decided to trust the Lord. She could joyfully rest in God’s care and plan. She could trust Him because she knew that He was completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. She believed that He would do for her what was for His glory and her good. If this was what God wanted her to do, she believed He would always be able to take care of her and help her do it, even though it would be very hard. Mary would even trust Him with this incredible news and whatever might happen next.]

[So Mary answered Gabriel,] "I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.
[“Perhaps many here in Nazareth will never understand about what the Lord is doing in me,” Mary must have thought, “but Elizabeth and Zecharias, her husband, will. I will go visit them.”]

[So] Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, Mary, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

[What did Mary do when Elizabeth greeted her like this? Did she break down and cry how scared she was? Did she nervously ask Elizabeth and Zecharias what she should do if her family and if Joseph and his family wanted to break off the wedding or even try to kill her? No, she did not. Once more, Mary trusted in the Lord. rested joyfully in God’s care and plan. She could trust Him because she knew that He was completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. She believed that He would do for her what was for His glory and her good. If this was what God wanted her to do, she believed He would always be able to take care of her and help her do it, even though it would be very hard. So Mary did not worry. Instead, she praised God!]

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me--
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones, but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home. By now Mary’s little baby had grown inside of her enough for everyone to see she was pregnant. Mary knew that it was time to see what would happen to her. Her family broke the news of Mary’s pregnancy to Joseph’s family…and then to Joseph, himself.

“What will happen to me? What will people say? What will they do to me?” Mary must have thought. There were many hard things she might have to go through now that everyone knew about the baby. But even then, Mary could trust in the Lord. She could rest joyfully in God’s care and plan. She could trust Him because she knew that He was completely powerful, completely wise,
completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. She believed that He would do for her what was for His glory and her good. If this was what God wanted her to do, she believed He would always be able to take care of her and help her do it, even though it would be very hard. Mary would even trust Him with what other might say or do to her.

When Joseph heard the news, he thought the same thing that everyone else thought. “How could Mary do this?” Joseph wondered. “She made a promise to me! So did her family! I’ve been working so hard on the huppah for her! All of my dreams and plans were for nothing.”

Joseph had decisions to make. He had to think carefully about what was the right thing to do. “The law gives me the right to have her killed by stoning her for what she’s done,” thought Joseph. “I don’t want to kill Mary for what has happened,” he mercifully decided, “but I cannot marry a woman who has already been with a man like he was her husband. I will divorce her quietly. Tomorrow my father and I will go to her father and get back the fifty shekels of mohar. I will ask for my mattan presents of jewelry back from Mary, we will tear up the Keturah (written covenant), and be done with the whole matter.”

But that was not the end of the whole matter, for the Lord was every bit as worthy of Mary’s trust as she had hoped. Perhaps no one believed Mary’s story when she told it, but the Lord in His perfect wisdom, power, goodness, and timing was doing everything perfectly to His glory and to Mary’s good. Everything would turn out just as He had planned it to. He would help Joseph believe. [So that night,] “an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”--which means, "God with us."

[When Joseph woke up, he knew what to do. Mary had not broken her promises to him. She had kept herself pure. Joseph had known that Mary was a girl who loved the Lord and trusted Him, but never had he imagined that the Lord had given to him a girl so special that the Lord would choose her to be the mother of the Messiah! Yes, perhaps the family would not understand why he was choosing to go ahead and marry Mary; but he would trust God to help them through whatever they would say to him or to Mary. If the Lord had done this amazing thing in Mary, surely His wisdom, power, goodness and timing would be perfect enough to help them through that, too.]

[So Joseph got up and ] did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. (Matthew 1:20-24  NIV)

What happened to Mary’s beautiful wedding day? How far had Joseph finished the Huppah? Did everyone come to celebrate or was it just a quiet wedding because everyone was ashamed of Mary? We do not know the answer to those questions; but, we do know that both Mary and Joseph trusted the Lord and praised Him for choosing them to be the ones who would raise the very Son of God. What was the joy of a wedding celebration in exchange for an honor like that? The Lord always knows best and does best.
Our Big Idea is: God’s People Trust Him
Our Scripture Verse is: Proverbs 3:5-6
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.”

Why did the Lord choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God? The Bible never mentions if she was pretty or especially smart. It never mentions if she had many friends. Her family wasn’t particularly rich. We don’t know if she was really good at doing things that girls were supposed to do in those days. She certainly wasn’t perfectly good—no one is. Many of the things we think of as really important we do not know about her at all. What the Lord does give us through His Word is that Mary trusted Him, as our Big Idea tells us; and was willing to do whatever He wanted her to do, even if she could not understand it, even if it was very, very hard. She was willing to not lean on her own understanding, but allow God to direct her path—to show her what she should do. It was her trust in Him and willingness to obey Him that made her pleasing to Him.

What about you and me? Perhaps we think a lot about whether we are smart or pretty or really good at something. Maybe we wish we had nicer things or more friends. But today we can see that what is really important in God’s eyes is the thing we know that Mary had: trust in God. And that would be the best thing of all for us to have. Let’s praise this God who is completely good and powerful and wise, completely worthy of our trust. Let’s ask Him to help us to trust Him with our whole lives, by turning away from our sins, trusting Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to help us to rest joyfully in His care and plan for our lives, just as Mary did.
1. Mary and Joseph and their fathers exchange mattan, mohar, and covenant vows in the Bethrothal Ceremony (Erusin) in front of their families.

2. Joseph’s father gives Mary’s father a mohar (bride price) of fifty shekels of silver, Joseph gives Mary a mattan (token of love) of jewelry.

3. Mary agrees to keep herself pure for Joseph until they are married. The fathers sign the Keturah (wedding agreement). Mary drinks a cup of wine as her pledge.

4. Everyone celebrates together with a feast.

5. Joseph gets to work building a beautiful huppah for Mary, decorating it and filling it with provisions.

6. Mary and her family get her things ready so she will be ready to go whenever Joseph comes for her.

7. The angel Gabriel comes to Mary and tells her that the Lord has chosen her to be the mother of the Son of God.

8. Even though Mary does not understand how this could be and may face misunderstanding and even punishment by others, she trusts the Lord and wants to do His will.

9. Mary visits Elizabeth who is pregnant with John (the Baptist) even though she is a very old lady.

10. After 3 months, Mary goes back home to Nazareth. Everyone can see that she is pregnant.

11. Joseph decides that he will not have Mary stoned, but he will divorce her quietly.

12. An angel comes to Joseph in a dream and tells him that he should not be afraid to take Mary for his wife because her baby was conceived of the Holy Spirit and He will be His people’s Savior.

13. Joseph obeys and takes Mary to be his wife.
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum! The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Drama Group Resources
   - Plan-a-Play Story Guide
   - Act-It-Out Sheet
   
   *(Speaker Sheets are found in Appendix B: Drama Group)*

2. Games Groups Resources
   - Story Review Discussion Questions
   - Big Idea Discussion Questions
   - Scripture Verse Discussion Questions
   
   *(Directions to Games are found in Appendix C: Games Groups)*

3. Songs Groups Resources
   - Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
   - Hymn Discussion Sheet
   
   *(Lyrics, Music and Sign Language for both songs found Big Idea Music Resources, at the front of the curriculum this Big Idea)*

   *(Song Intro Sheet is found in Appendix F: Songs Groups)*

4. Craft Resources
   - Craft Instructions and Resources
   
   *(Presenter Sheets found in Appendix E: Craft Group)*

5. VIPP Resources
   - VIPP Prayer Letter
   
   *(VIPP Clue Cards and Directions for VIPP Games are found in Appendix E: VIPP Group)*
2. Who's in It? (Narrator 5)

Joseph  
Mary  
Their fathers  
Their relatives  
Mattan jewelry  
50 shekels of silver mohar money  
Keturah (written agreement)  
Glass of wine  
Feast  
Supplies to build huppah  
Food, etc. for huppah  
Decorations for huppah  
Oil lamps  
Mary’s things (shiluhim)  
Angel Gabriel  
Zechariah and Elizabeth  
Mary’s “bump”

3. What about the Big Idea? (Narrator 6)

Today's Big Idea is God's People Trust Him. Mary trusted the Lord’s plan for her life, even though she could not understand it and it might be very hard.

4. What do we call it? (Narrator 1)

Our Story is called:  
Trusting God for Something Better than a Wedding

5. What's it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)

Beginning:
Mary and Joseph and their fathers exchange mattan, mohar, and covenant vows in the Bethrothal Ceremony (Erusin) in front of their families. Joseph’s father gives Mary’s father a mohar (bride price) of fifty shekels of silver, Joseph gives Mary a mattan (token of love) of jewelry. Mary agrees to keep herself pure for Joseph until they are married. The fathers sign the Keturah (wedding agreement). Mary drinks a cup of wine as her pledge. Everyone celebrates together with a feast.

Middle:
Joseph gets to work building a beautiful huppah for Mary, decorating it and filling it with provisions. Mary and her family get her things (shiluhim) and the oil lamps ready so she will be ready to go whenever Joseph comes for her. The angel Gabriel comes to Mary and tells her that the Lord has chosen her to be the mother of the Son of God. Even though Mary does not understand how this could be and may face misunderstanding and even punishment by others, she trusts the Lord and wants to do His will. Mary visits Elizabeth who is pregnant with John (the Baptist) even though she is a very old lady.

End:
After 3 months, Mary goes back home to Nazareth. Everyone can see that she is pregnant. Joseph decides that he will not have Mary stoned, but he will divorce her quietly. An angel comes to Joseph in a dream and tells him that he should not be afraid to take Mary for his wife because her baby was conceived of the Holy Spirit and He will be His people’s Savior. Joseph obeys and takes Mary to be his wife.
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Joseph gets to work building a beautiful huppah for Mary, decorating it and filling it with provisions. Mary and her family get her things (shiluhim) and the oil lamps ready so she will be ready to go whenever Joseph comes for her. The angel Gabriel comes to Mary and tells her that the Lord has chosen her to be the mother of the Son of God. Even though Mary does not understand how this could be and may face misunderstanding and even punishment by others, she trusts the Lord and wants to do His will. Mary visits Elizabeth who is pregnant with John (the Baptist) even though she is a very old lady.

End:
After 3 months, Mary goes back home to Nazareth. Everyone can see that she is pregnant. Joseph decides that he will not have Mary stoned, but he will divorce her quietly. An angel comes to Joseph in a dream and tells him that he should not be afraid to take Mary for his wife because her baby was conceived of the Holy Spirit and He will be His people’s Savior. Joseph obeys and takes Mary to be his wife.
1. What ceremony did Mary and Joseph and their relatives gather together for? Erusin, the Betrothal Ceremony.

2. What did Joseph’s dad give to Mary’s dad? Why? “Mohar” of 50 silver shekels as a promise that Joseph would marry Mary within the year.

3. What did Joseph give Mary? Why? “Mattan” of jewelry, as a token of his love for her.

4. What did Mary have to promise? How did she show that she made that promise? To not be with any man like he was her husband; to not get pregnant or have children before getting married to Joseph. She showed her promise by drinking a cup of wine.

5. What did Joseph have to do before Mary could be his wife? Build the huppah and get it ready.

6. Who decided when Joseph’s huppah was ready? His father

7. What did Mary and her family have to do before Mary got married? Prepare her shilulim, pack her things, get oil lamps ready.

8. When did most young men like to come for their brides? In the middle of the night

9. What did the angel Gabriel tell Mary that was so surprising to her? She would have a baby who would be God’s Son.

10. What problems did Mary have to trust God about because of her pregnancy? No one believing her that Jesus was God’s Son, being divorced or maybe stoned for being pregnant.

11. Why was Zechariah and Elizabeth’s house a good place for Mary to go? They also had had Gabriel speak to them. They would believe her about Jesus and would rejoice with her.

12. Why was it merciful of Joseph to divorce Mary quietly? Because by law he could have her stoned.

13. How did the Lord show that He was worthy of Mary’s trust and would take care of her? Giving her Zecharias and Elizabeth for support, speaking to Joseph in a dream

Big Idea Connections
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Mary trusted the Lord’s plan for her life, even though she could not understand it and it might be very hard.

Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Mary trusted the Lord with all her heart. If she had leaned on her own understanding, she would be worried about what would happen to her. But Mary acknowledged the greatness of the Lord in how she responded to Gabriel and in how she spoke with Elizabeth about what was happening to her. She trusted Him and she did indeed make her path straight. He helped her through her hard times and worked in Joseph’s heart so that he would not divorce her, but take her as his wife, understanding that this child was the Son of God.

Life Application
1. Why can God’s people trust God even when very hard things happen to them or others that they don’t understand? Because they know that He is completely good, wise, loving, powerful and He knows everything, while they do not.

2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
The Gospel
The Angel Gabriel told Joseph that Jesus would save His people from their sins. Why did God’s people need saving from sins? How did Jesus do this? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? Praise God for being the Sender of the Savior of His people.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that many times we choose not to trust God, even though He is completely worthy of being trusted.
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God that by His Holy Spirit He helps His people trust Him, just like He helped Mary.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might trust and obey God, even when it is very, very hard.

Playing the Game: Use the same questions in your story review game as you used in your discussion.
Optional Closing Activity: Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
**SECRET AGENT**

*Story Review Game*

**Materials**
Various detective looking items (a hat, dark glasses, tie, suit, watch, etc)
Paper and Marker
Tape
Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions

**Preparing the Game**
Supplement the Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities“ in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Story Review concepts to their lives.

Write the Story Review questions on small thin strips of paper. Tape (or pin) these to all sorts of secret places on the detective outfit, such as on the bottom of your shoe, underneath your watch band, inside the hat, on the side of the glasses, etc.

**Playing the Game**
Divide the children into teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members guess where a location of a Story Review question on your detective outfit. A team gets a point for finding a question and a point for answering the question correctly. Have the children be specific in their guesses, such as: “on top of your hat” or “inside your hat”, or “under your left shoe”, etc. That makes for more of a challenge.. If a team is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for a point.

Game continues until the children find all the questions, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

**Optional Closing Activity:**
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time.
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Big Idea Discussion Questions

Big Idea Concept: God’s People Trust Him

Trusting God means resting joyfully in God’s care and plan. God’s people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. He only has them do what is for His glory and their good. He is always able to take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard. God’s people know that they will not trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. But they know that God’s Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, will help them to trust God more and more.

Understanding the Big Idea

1. What does trusting God mean? Resting in God’s care and plan.
2. What does it mean to rest in God’s care and plan? To not worry, but believe that God knows what is best and will do it.
3. What do God’s people know about God that helps them trust Him? He is completely powerful, wise, good, and perfect in His timing.
4. What will God use everything that happens to do? To bring glory to His name and to do good to them.
5. How does God’s all-powerfulness help God’s people trust in Him? They know that He is ABLE to do whatever He wants to do.
6. How does God’s perfect wisdom and love help God’s people trust in Him? They know that what He plans is only good.
7. How does God’s perfect timing help God’s people trust in Him? They know that He knows exactly when things should happen.
8. What can God’s people always depend on Him to do for them, even if it is very hard? To take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do.
9. Why won’t God’s people trust God perfectly while they live on earth? Because they are still sinners.
10. Who helps God’s people trust in Him? The Holy Spirit, working in their hearts.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

1. What did Mary have to trust the Lord about? That He would take care of her, even though no one else might understand about where her baby came from; that He would take care of her even if others wanted to punish her or Joseph divorced her because of her baby.
2. How did Mary show she trusted the Lord? She did not demand to understand or refuse to be Jesus’ mother, but obeyed the Lord and rejoiced in His plan and her part in it.

Scripture Verse Connection

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

This verse encourages God’s people to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.
Life Application Questions
1. What are some times when it is hard for us to trust in the Lord? Answers vary.
2. What should God’s people do when it is hard to trust in the Lord? Tell others and have them pray for them; ask the Lord to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them trust Him.
3. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.

Gospel Question
The first step in trusting God is trusting Him to be our Savior? Why do we need to do this? How do we do this? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Big Idea Game

Materials
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

Preparing the Game
Supplement the Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Big Idea Concepts to their lives.

Write the Big Idea questions on small thin strips of paper and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into two teams, having them line up in straight lines, arms’ length apart, side to side. The leader stands at one end of the two lines and tells the children that he/she will tell them to do a certain action, saying “Obey” or “Omit” right before doing it. Children are to do the action if the leader says “Obey”; but NOT do it if they say “Omit” first. Any child caught moving when the leader has said “Omit” is identified and is the Question Chooser for the class. If the class answers the question correctly, then the child resumes play. If not, then the child must sit out until another round when a correct answer is given.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

NOTE: Have children who are “Out” help give you ideas for actions.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Scripture

1. What does it mean to trust in the LORD? **To have so much confidence in God’s love, power, goodness, wisdom & timing in all things, that you can rest joyfully in Him, even in very hard times.**

2. What does it mean for our “heart”? **This kind of heart is not the kind that beats. It is the part of you that thinks, feels, loves, and can know God.**

3. What does it mean to trust the LORD with all of your heart? **It means that you don’t just do things that make it look like you trust God, but that deep inside you really, really believe that you can trust Him. Because you trust Him with all of your heart, that changes the way you think and feel about things on the inside, and the way you act on the outside—even in very hard times.**

4. What does it mean to “lean on your own understanding”? **It means to depend only on what you know about something.**

5. What does it mean to acknowledge God in all our ways? **It means to remember that only God is completely good, wise, loving and powerful. Only He knows the reasons for everything that happens to us.**

6. Why should we acknowledge God in our ways rather than lean on our own understanding? **Because we are just humans and can’t understand so many things. Only God knows enough to really understand what is best and is powerful enough to do it.**

7. What does it mean for God to make our paths straight? **It doesn’t mean that He will make paths or roads that we walk on without curves. It means that He will show us what to do, even though we don’t understand everything.**

Big Idea Connection

What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? **God’s people are to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.**

Story Connection

What does the verse have to do with our story? What did Mary have to trust the Lord about, rather than lean on her own understanding? **How she could have a baby even though she had no husband; how the Lord would take care of her even if no one believed her about her baby, even if Joseph divorced her.**

Life Application

1. What is something that you or someone you know has to trust God about right now? How could you encourage them to trust God instead of worrying?

2. What is the best first step in trusting God for all of us? **To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.**

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? **Praise God for being always worthy of being trusted.**

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? **That we are all sinners. We love to do things our own way. We love to trust in our own understanding. Too often we do not want to trust in God or do things His way. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!**
ACTS Questions, continued

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can thank God that when we trust in Him that He will show us what He wants us to do. We do not have to rely on our own understanding.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit that we might trust in Him and not on our own understanding to show us what He wants us to do.

Gospel Question

All people are sinners who deserve God’s punishment for their sins. What do we all need to trust Jesus to do for us? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Preparing the Children for the Scripture Verse Game

Introduce and Practice Shortened Games version before playing game.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time

Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
**Materials**
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder  
A die  
Die Number and Action Chart (see below)

**Preparing the Game**
Make a sign as follows:
1 = Head  
2 = Feet  
3 = Hands  
4 = Head and Feet  
5 = Feet and Hands  
6 = Whole Body

**Learning the Verse**
Hold up the Scripture Verse sign from the Big Idea Folder for all the children to see. Read it slowly with them reading along with you. Remind them of the meaning of the verse, noting key words that may need explaining. Practice saying the verse with the children until they are fairly confident saying it from memory, probably 4 or 5 times.

**Playing the Game**
Have the children spread out facing the leader. Tell the children that they are going to play “Simon Says How”, a game in which everyone will take turns making up different actions that they will try to do while trying to say the verse. Explain that “Simon” will roll the die and make up actions that use the parts of the body that correspond to the number on the chart. Everyone else will then recite the verse while doing the actions “Simon” made up. Simon will then choose another person to be Simon in his place.

Game continues until all children get to be Simon, or as time and attention span allow.

**Optional Closing Activity**
**Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time**
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Trust in the Lord: Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all of your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding,
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.
Trust in the LORD with all your heart!
Trust the LORD with all your heart!

Understanding the Scripture
1. What does it mean to trust in the LORD? To have so much confidence in God’s love, power, goodness, wisdom & timing in all things, that you can rest joyfully in Him, even in very hard times.
2. What does it mean to trust the LORD with all of your heart? It means that you don’t just do things that make it look like you trust God, but that deep inside you really, really believe that you can trust Him. Because you trust Him with all of your heart, that changes the way you think and feel about things on the inside, and the way you act on the outside—even in very hard times.
3. What does it mean to “lean on your own understanding”? It means to depend only on what you know about something.
4. What does it mean to acknowledge God in all our ways? It means to remember that only God is completely good, wise, loving and powerful. Only He knows the reasons for everything that happens to us.
5. Why should we acknowledge God in our ways rather than lean on our own understanding? Because we are just humans and can’t understand so many things. Only God knows enough to really understand what is best and is powerful enough to do it.
6. What does it mean for God to make our paths straight? It doesn’t mean that He will make paths or roads that we walk on without curves. It means that He will show us what to do, even though we don’t understand everything.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people are to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? What did Mary have to trust the Lord about, rather than lean on her own understanding? How she could have a baby even though she had no husband; how the Lord would take care of her even if no one believed her about her baby, even if Joseph divorced her.

Life Application
1. What is something that you or someone you know has to trust God about right now? How could you encourage them to trust God instead of worrying?
2. What is the best first step in trusting God for all of us? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being always worthy of being trusted.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. We love to do things our own way. We love to trust in our own understanding. Too often we do not want to trust in God or do things His way. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God that when we trust in Him that He will show us what He wants us to do. We do not have to rely on our own understanding.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit that we might trust in Him and not on our own understanding to show us what He wants us to do.

Gospel Question
All people are sinners who deserve God’s punishment for their sins. What do we all need to trust Jesus to do for us? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing the song.
**Materials**
None

**Preparing the Game**
None.

**Playing the Game**
Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc. Sing the song while doing the chosen action. Select another child to be the leader.

If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word “grace”, but clap your hands when you sing the word “Jesus”. Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.
Understanding the Song

1. What are the “burdens, sorrows and toil, grief, loss, frown, cross” the song is talking about? “Burdens” and “toil” are things that are difficult things we must do. “Sorrows” and “frown” mean sad things in our lives. “Loss” is losing someone/something we love; and “grief” is what we feel when we’ve lost it. The sadness we feel after something bad has happened. A “cross” is something hard that God has us suffer through for His good purposes, just like Jesus suffered and died on the cross for God’s good purposes. This song is about the hard things in life that happen to us or people we love and how hard they are for us to deal with.

2. Who is the “we” in this song? Christians: people who have confessed their sins to God, turned from them and now trust in Jesus as their Savior, living their lives for Him.

3. What will God do with every burden, sorrow and toil? Richly repay them.

4. How will God richly repay them, in money or something else? He will bless them by using them for His glory and our good and the good of others. In heaven, He promises to give us even greater blessings that we cannot imagine.

5. What does God want us to do as we go through these hard things? Trust and obey.

6. What does it mean to trust and obey? To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.

7. Why is it especially hard to keep trusting and obeying when hard things happen to us? Because many times we don’t understand God’s good purposes in the hard things that happen and it is easy to start doubting that He knows best and stop doing the things He has told us to do.

Big Idea Connection

How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Trust Him? God is the only one who perfectly knows and understand His plans. Many times God’s people must trust Him and obey Him when there are many things they cannot understand. As hard as this may be at times, they know that because God is completely powerful, wise, good, and perfect in His timing, they can always trust that He knows best. This is the way to be “happy in Jesus.”

Story Connection

How does this song relate to today’s story? Mary chose to trust and obey the Lord’s plan for her as Jesus’ mother, even though she didn’t understand how it would happen and she knew that some very hard things could happen to her because people wouldn’t believe what happened.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6
“Trust in the LORD with all  your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways
acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”
Many times it is very hard to trust God when we have to bear hard “burdens” or sorrows. Many times God’s
people do not understand why they have to go through them or what good thing God is doing through them.
But God’s people know that they do not have to lean on their own understanding. Instead, they trust in the
LORD with all their heart and obey whatever it is they know He wants them to do. They can trust that God will
make their paths straight: He will help them to obey Him and He will use everything they are going through for
their good and His glory.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people today be affected by the message of this song?
They can praise God for being completely worthy of their trust even in very hard times. They can ask Him to
send His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them keep on trusting and obeying Him, no matter what.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not want to trust God or obey Him. We grumble and complain when we go through
hard things instead of wanting God to work through them for His glory or our good.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for using every single burden and sorrow that His people go through for their good and His
glory.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our
Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts to help us to trust Him and obey Him with
every single burden we bear or sorrow we share.

Gospel Question
We are all sinners who have not trusted and obeyed God. What do we deserve? How can we be saved?
What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way
to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life
their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and
love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect
payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their
Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice.
Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins
and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God
will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love
Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
MIMIC ME
Song Game

Materials
None

Preparing the Game
None.

Playing the Game
Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc. Sing the song while doing the chosen action. Select another child to be the leader.

If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word “grace”, but clap your hands when you sing the word “Jesus”. Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.
1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)

The Angel Gabriel

2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)

Where? In Nazareth,

Who? Mary

Did What? Praised God instead of worried as she thought about the message brought to her by The Angel Gabriel

With the Big Idea Object? The Angel Gabriel

Why? Because she trusted in God.

3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Trust Him. Few people ever see angels, but the LORD used the Angel Gabriel to give both Mary and Joseph the incredible news about the birth of Jesus. Seeing this angel was part of God’s encouragement to Mary and Joseph to trust that this amazing thing that was happening was really from Him.

4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)

God helps His people trust in Him. He has even sent angels at special times to tell them something they are to do, to help them or to encourage them to keep trusting God.
The Angel Gabriel

Description
The children will make and decorate a standing Angel Gabriel out of cardstock and various decorating supplies.

Materials
Templates for the stand and the angel
White Cardstock
Markers, Crayons or colored pencils
Glue sticks
Craft jewels, sequins and glitter/glitter glue
Scissors

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out the support piece and two copies of the angel per craft.
2. For younger children, you may want to cut out the parts for them. Older children can do this themselves.
3. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children decorate their two angels with the markers. Then let them add in extra decorations with the sequins, glitter glue, etc.
3. Help the children attach the two angel pictures at the top with tape. Then tape the folded ends of the support piece in place at the middle bottom of each piece of cardstock.
Support pieces

1 needed per craft

Fold along dashed lines, then tape each folded end to front of each angel cardstock piece along the middle, bottom edge, forming a stand.
Dear ______________________________________

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was:

**God's People Trust Him.**

Trusting God means resting joyfully in God's care and plan. God's people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. He only has them do what is for His glory and their good. He is always able to take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard. God's people know that they will not trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. But they know that God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, will help them to trust God more and more.

We thought about Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

I also prayed for you during ACTS time. Here are 4 things related to the Big Idea we prayed for in our ACTS prayer time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

**A** Praise God for being completely trustworthy.

**C** Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.

**T** Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.

**S** Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and restfully trust Him, even when our own Savior, Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we

Yours Sincerely, ______________________________________

---

Dear ______________________________________

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was:

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Yours Sincerely, ______________________________________
**Materials**  
The VIPP information sheets and clip art for two or more VIPPS, preferably of the same type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)  
Bag

**Preparing the Game**  
Fill in the clue sheets for the VIPPs you are using. If desired, use a photocopier to reduce down the size of each clue sheet to a smaller size for easier use. Put the clue sheets for the VIPPS in a bag, except for the sheets with the names and pictures. Mix up.

**Playing the Game**  
**Reveal, then Review Version:**  
**Reveal:** Tell them about each of the VIPPs you are using in the game, showing them the clues and reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet for each of them.

**Review:** Put all the clip art in the bag. Mix up. Have children take turns pulling clues out and have the class try to remember which clue goes with which VIPP. You can make this a team game by splitting the children into two teams and giving points when their team players correctly put a clue in the right place.

**Get Clues, Then Guess Version:**  
**Get Clues:** Put the clues for the VIPPs in the bag and mix up. Read them the VIPP information sheets (or to make it even harder, don’t!).

**Guess:** Have the children take turns pulling out the clues and have them guess who the clues go to. When the children guess correctly, review the clues.
SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

Time Activity

_____ Arrive no later than this to prepare for session
My preparations:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

_____ Children arrive

_____ Concept Introduction/Review (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GROUP sings Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GROUP sings verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to do the singing portion:
• Sing/listen to the song through once without actions.
• Choose a movement (from the Movement Grab Bag, if using one) for the class to do while singing the song through once/twice more. Make this an aerobic activity to help get the wiggles out!
• Music for the WoGoLOA Chant is always the first song on each CD of the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs. The music for the Big Question and Unit Scripture Verse songs are always the first two songs of the music for each unit, also found on the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs.

Story time
Drama Group (or other designated) teacher tells story in a dramatic fashion, having decorated area with lots of props to be able to point to as they tell it. Use outline as a guide, adding in interested details from the text. Practice story. Do not just read it! Do not let it run more than 15 minutes.
### Session Schedule and Planning Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Snack and Discussion Time**
- Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.
- Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

   2. __________________________________________________________________________

   3. __________________________________________________________________________

   4. __________________________________________________________________________

   5. __________________________________________________________________________

   6. __________________________________________________________________________

   - If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it.
   - The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions.

**Activity Time**
Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here:

**ACTS Prayer Time** *(Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead)*
Lead the children in an ACTS prayer incorporating an ACTS related to the Big Idea, Scripture verse or story, (see lesson plan and discussion sheets for ideas) AS WELL AS any personal prayers. Ask for volunteers to pray the prayer, but never force a child to pray. Note: Drama Group will probably want to do this before Activity time, instead of after Activity Time, as this schedule suggests.

**Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time**
Have small groups present in the following order: Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups. Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
Opening Large Group Time

*All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.*

**Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt**

**Activities:**
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

**Resources:**
*All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea*

- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 64 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 64 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

**Story**

**Activities:**
- Tell story
- Close in Prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

**Resources:**
*Story: The God of the Impossible Task*, pp. 39-41
- Story Outline p.41
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

*Don’t Forget! Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery the Drama Group will later use in their play*
Week 2 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time
All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer, and do one or more Small Group Activities

Snack

Nigerian fruits and vegetables, such as banana, mango and yams (Put some butter and cinnamon on thinly sliced pieces) OR make a cake donut “lead” attached to a licorice lace “rope” like what the gang leader had.

ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
C Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.
T Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.
S Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.

Drama

Activities:
Discuss story
Fill in Speaker Sheets
Practice Play

Resources:
Plan-a-Play Story Guide, p. 42
Speaker Sheets Appendix B, Drama Group

Story Review Game: Four Corners

Activities:
Discuss story
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

Resources:
Story Review Discussion Questions Sheet pp. 43-44
Story Review Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

**Big Idea Game: Sit Ball**

**Activities:**
- Discuss Big Idea
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 45-46
- Big Idea Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups

**Big Idea Craft: A Pot in the Hippo’s Mouth**

**Activities:**
- Discuss Story
- Fill in Presenter Sheets
- Make Craft

**Resources:**
- Big Idea-Craft Connection Guide, p.53
- Craft Directions, p.54
- Presenter Sheets, Appendix D Crafts Group

**VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Picture Run**

**Activities:**
- Discuss story
- Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game
- Decorate VIPP Clue Cards Pray for VIPP
- Decorate VIPP Prayer Letter

**Resources:**
- VIPP Game Directions: Appendix E: VIPP Group
- VIPP Prayer Letter

**Scripture Verse Game: Scrambled Eggs**

**Activities:**
- Discuss Scripture Verse
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 47-48
- Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

**Scripture Song: Trust in the Lord: Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Activities:**
- Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: **Word Take Away**
  (and Scripture Verse Game, see above)
- Fill in Song Intro Sheet

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet p.47-48
- Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
- Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
- Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
- Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs

**Hymn: Trust and Obey: Verse 2**

**Activities:**
- Discuss Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: **Word Take Away**
- Fill in Song Intro Sheet

**Resources:**
- Hymn Discussion Questions Sheet, p. 49-50
- Hymn Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
- Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
- Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
- Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
Closing Large Group Time

The Small Groups make a presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity.

Activity Presentations

Drama
- The Play, Introduced by the Speakers

Story Review Game
- Ask Story Review Questions

Big Idea Game
- Read the Big Idea
- Ask Big Idea Quiz Questions

Big Idea Craft
- Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets

VIPP Game and Clue Cards
- Share Clues about VIPP
- Pray for the VIPP

Scripture Verse Game
- Read Scripture Verse
- Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

Scripture Song
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

Hymn
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

Closing Prayer

Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

Give Out Take Home Sheets
Opening Large Group Time

All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

**Activities:**
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

**Resources:**
All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea

- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 64 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 64 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

Story

**Activities:**
- Tell story
- Close in prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

**Resources:**

**Story: The God of the Impossible Task,** pp. 39-41
- Story Outline p.41
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

Don’t Forget!
Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery the Drama Group will later use in their play

Story-telling Refresher:
Introduction pp.23-25
Appendices A, B
Small Group Activities:
Snack and Discussion Time

All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer before doing Small Group activities, listed on the next page.

Snack

Nigerian fruits and vegetables, such as banana, mango and yams (Put some butter and cinnamon on thinly sliced pieces) OR make a cake donut “lead” attached to a licorice lace “rope” like what the gang leader had.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.

C  Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to

T  Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.

S  Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.
WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN
Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Activity Time
After snack and discussion time, each group of Kindergarteners take part in one or two activities, as time allows.

Group 1 Activities
Use Group 1 Activities if you have just one Kindergarten groups; or, for half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 1, First Activity: Scripture Verse Game
(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)

Activities:
Discuss Scripture Verse
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

Resources:
Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 69-70
Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix G Kindergarten Group

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 1, Second Activity: VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game or VIPP Prayer Letter
(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)

Activities:
Discuss story
Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game
Decorate VIPP Clue Cards
Pray for VIPP
VIPP Prayer Letter

Resources:
VIPP Game Directions: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group
VIPP Prayer Letter
VIPP Clue Cards

VIPP Refresher:
Introduction pp.26-32
Appendix E
Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Activity Time, continued

Group 2 Activities

Use Group 2 Activities for the other half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 2, First Activity: Story Review Game
(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)

Activities:
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

Resources:
- Story Review/Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet
- Best Kindergarten Games: Story Review, Appendix G Kindergarten Group

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 2, Second Activity: Scripture Song: Trust in the Lord: Proverbs 3:5-6

Activities:
- Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: Word Take Away

Resources:
- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet pp.71-72
- Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
- Song Game Directions, Appendix G Kindergarten Group
- Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
Closing Large Group Time

The Small Groups can make presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity. These are optional for the Kindergarten groups.

Activity Presentations

- **Story Review/Big Idea Game**
  - Ask Story Review/Big Idea Questions

- **VIPP Game and Clue Cards**
  - Share Clues about VIPP
  - Pray for the VIPP

- **Act-It-Out**
  - Act out a few actions from Beginning, Middle, End as teacher tells the story briefly

- **Scripture Song**
  - Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

- **Scripture Verse Game**
  - Read Scripture Verse
  - Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

- **Closing Prayer**

- **Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C**

- **Give Out Take Home Sheets**
This week our story is about another Mary, but it does not take place in Bible times or Bible lands. It takes place about 125 years ago in Dundee, Scotland and in Nigeria, Africa.

Our story starts in Dundee, Scotland where a fourteen year old, red-headed, blue-eyed girl named Mary was bent over her loom working furiously.

As she wiped the sweat from her forehead she thought, “Ten hours a day, slaving over these looms, is exhausting! The noise from all the hundreds of machines is deafening! These mill factory owners ask too much of us. What I wouldn’t give to be back in school learning about all sorts of things and all sorts of places around the world! But with father hopelessly drunk most of the time and mother home with a new baby as well as the other five children, I’m the only one who can make money for us to live on.”

“This isn’t at all what I thought I’d do with my life,” Mary thought to herself. “For as long as I can remember I’ve wanted to go to Calabar in Africa. Calabar is one of the most remote, dangerous parts of Africa where few Christians have dared to go. I want to go there to tell them about Jesus! But how will I ever get to go there? My family needs me here and I haven’t even finished my schooling—I can hardly read or add! Now it seems like an impossible dream; yet, I will trust in the Lord.”

“Lord,” Mary prayed, “the task is impossible for me but not for You. Lead the way and I will follow. I will not lean on my own understand. I will trust in you and let you direct my path.”

So Mary kept working at the mill factory for many more years and trusted the Lord to show her the way…and so He did.

“Perhaps I cannot go to Calabar right now,” Mary thought, “but I can prepare myself in case one day the Lord does lead me to go. I will teach myself what they would have taught me in school. I will learn everything I can about the Bible. And even if I cannot go to dangerous Calabar and tell those needy people about Jesus, I can go to the neediest, most dangerous part of Dundee where few Christians will go, and I will tell the those people about Jesus.”

So Mary bought her own school books, propped them up next to her machine as she worked and taught them to herself, little by little. And on Sundays and in the evenings she went to the streets of the worst part of Dundee and spoke about Jesus to whomever would listen.

These streets were so dangerous that only Mary and few others were brave enough to go and speak about Jesus there. Many times they came back roughed up by the gangs and pelted with mud. But one night, one of the gangs decided to do more than usual. As Mary stood on a street corner and shared about Jesus, a gang came up and surrounded her. The leader came towards her and began to swing a heavy lead weight near her face. What would Mary do? If the weight crashed into her head, she would have a serious injury; yet, would she be frightened off by this young man?

“Lord,” Mary prayed, “this man needs You. Please help me reach his heart. The task is impossible for me,
but not for You. Lead the way and I will follow. I will not lean on my own understanding. I will trust in You and let You direct my path.”

The Lord gave Mary an idea. She looked steadily and said, “If you make me flinch, I’ll leave; but, if you don’t, then you have to come to church with me.”

The leader grinned an evil grin of agreement. Round and round, closer and closer, the young man swung his heavy lead weight; but Mary stood her ground even as it grazed her brow. She never flinched. Mary had won!

“She’s game, boys,” he exclaimed. “Come on, let’s go to this service of hers.” That night the Lord began to work in the hearts of that young man and many of the other gang members. Before long, they turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus. Then they helped Mary tell others in Dundee about Jesus.

As wonderful as it was to see these people from the most dangerous part of Dundee come to know Jesus, it was not enough for Mary. “Oh, Lord,” she prayed, “I love these people here, but what about those in Calabar? They need to know about Jesus even more. Please, Lord, send me!”

In a few more years, the Lord answered Mary’s prayer. Needs at home changed and she joined the Calabar mission team. And one early August day, she boarded the Ethiopia, a huge steamer ship, and set off for Calabar.

After 30 days at sea, the ship arrived in Calabar. It did not take long for Mary to see that it lived up to its nickname, “The White Man’s Grave.” Elephants trampled people. Lions and leopards attacked them. The rivers were full of crocodiles and grumpy hippopotamuses, all too willing to eat anyone on their part of the river who upset them. There were huge swarms of insects, especially malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

If that were not enough, there were the people, themselves. They were vicious and sneaky. They lived in fear of the witchdoctors and their magic spells. They were taught to worship skulls and spirits. They were quick to kill each other; and, what was worse, they ate the people they killed—they were cannibals! Most of them wanted nothing to do with the missionaries, except to kill them and eat them! The further inland you went, the more vicious the people got. Most of the missionaries did not even dare to go inland, but stayed right near the coast where people were not quite so wicked. Mary, however, was not most missionaries.

“I want to go inland as far as I can, to people who have never heard about Jesus!” Mary told the other missionaries.

“You will be killed, if you go. Everyone else has been killed. You will be no different. What is more, you are just a single woman. If anything they will be quicker to kill you,” they warned her.

Mary listened to their stories of what had happened to the other missionaries who had lost their lives trying to reach the inland people of Calabar. Would she be just like the other missionaries and stay near the coast, or would she dare to give up her life to tell them about Jesus?

“Oh Lord,” Mary prayed, “They are right. The task is impossible for me. But, it is not impossible for You. Lead the way and I will follow. I will not lean on my own understanding. I will not fear. I will trust in You
and let You direct my path.” So Mary began her great adventure into the dangerous inland part of Calabar.

Further and further Mary traveled inland up the River Okoyong in a canoe with her five adopted children and her things. Danger was on every side. One day an angry hippopotamus began to attack their boat with its huge jaws. Mary saved their lives by throwing her big cast iron pot down its throat and paddling off as quickly as possible.

Yet despite all the perils they faced, they finally came to the village of Ekenge, where no missionary had ever gone before. Mary trusted in God and He gave her courage to stand up to face the chief of the cannibals who lived there, just like He gave her to face that gang leader years before. While other missionaries were killed, the chief--Chief Edem-- saw Mary’s courage and her trust in the Lord and he accepted her into his village. The people began to call her “The White Ma.” They would listen to her talk about Jesus and treat their sicknesses with her strange medicine. Soon they came to her to settle problems they had.

One day, messengers from another village burst into Ekenge looking for Mary. “We have run through the jungle for eight hours to get to your village. We hear you have a White Ma who can cast the evil spirits out of our chief! He is dying and we have been told that she has powerful magic to heal. If our chief does not get well, then many of our men will be killed to go with him into the spirit world. Please come to save our chief and save our men!” the men pleaded.

“You must not go,” Chief Edem said. “There are warriors out in the jungle who will kill you.”

“The streams are all flooded from the rains,” Ma Eme, another villager warned her. “The jungles are full of wild beasts. You will never get there alive! Don’t go!”

What would Mary do? Would she risk her life or stay safe in the village? “They are right. The task is impossible for me. There are warriors who could kill me. There are wild animals that could attack me. But, it is not impossible for You, Lord. Lead the way and I will follow. I will not lean on my own understanding. I will not fear. I will trust in You and let You direct my path.”

She prayed all night to the Lord and received her answer. The next morning she told Chief Edem and Ma Eme, “I believe the Lord wants me to go, so I must go. I will trust in Him.”

All day Mary trudged through the heavy rain to the village. Her boots became so soaked with water that she threw them away and kept on walking through the muddy jungle bush in bare feet. The rain chilled her body and soon Mary was sick with a terrible fever and headache. It took every ounce of strength she had to not give up, but keep moving her trembling, weak body forward to the village where the dying chief lay. Why didn’t she give up and turn around? What kept her going? Her trust in the Lord: “Lord, this task is impossible for me. I am so sick I can hardly keep going; but I know that this is not impossible for You. Lead the way and I will follow. I will not lean on my own understanding. I will not fear. I will trust in You and let You direct my path.”

At last Mary arrived at the village, chilled to the bone, sick, hungry and exhausted; yet, she did not stop.
to take care of any of her needs. She went straight to the chief’s hut, hoping that she was not too late. The chief lay unconscious (a special sleep that very sick people get sometimes) on a mat on the mud floor of the hut. She gave him medicine and then stayed with him all night. The next day, to the joy of the people of the village, the chief awoke! Each day he got better and better. The people celebrated. Thanks to the White Ma, not only would the chief live, but none of their men would be killed either.

“White Ma,” the people said, “Tell us about your magic powers! We have never seen such power. Who gave it to you?”

She said to them: “The Lord Jesus Christ did. I have come to you because I love and worship Jesus Christ. He is the Great Physician and Savior, the Son of the Father God who made all things I want you to know this Father and to receive the eternal life which Jesus offers to all those [who confess their sins to Him and turn to trust in Him as their Savior.] To know Jesus means to love Him, and with His love in our hearts we love everybody. Eternal life means peace and joy in this world and a wonderful home in the next world. My heart longs for you to believe in Jesus, to walk in His paths, and to know the blessings of eternal life through Him.”

This was only one of the amazing things that the Lord did through Mary Slessor, deep in the jungles of Calabar. The Lord used her to tell many people about Jesus who would have never had heard otherwise. Year after year Mary Slessor worked on, doing the impossible. Year after year, never a sword of a cannibal or by the claws of a lion or the jaws of an alligator—or even a grumpy hippopotamus—killed her, as everyone had warned her would happen. Mary Slessor did the impossible: she survived thirty eight years in that dangerous jungle! Why? Because even though the task is impossible for her; yet, it was never impossible for the Lord. He led the way and she followed. She did not lean on her own understanding. She did not fear. She trusted in Him and let Him direct her path all the days of her life.”

Our Big Idea is: **God’s People Trust Him**
Our Scripture Verse is: **Proverbs 3:5-6**
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.”

The Lord gave Mary Slessor this kind of trust in Him. Many times she faced life-threatening dangers, yet she rested joyfully in the fact that God always was at work, only allowing what was for His glory and the good of others and herself.

What about you and me? Do you think we can trust the Lord as Mary Slessor did? Would He be as trustworthy to us as He was to Mary Slessor? Yes, we can. It is His promise to all who turn from their sins and trust in Him that He will send His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them to trust Him. And it is His promise to everyone of His people that He will always be perfectly trustworthy to work in their lives only what is for their good and the good of others; and, what will bring glory to God. Let’s praise this amazing God for being completely trustworthy. Let’s ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and
trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and help us to trust Him with all of our lives so that we will be willing to even dare to do whatever He wants us to do, even if they are as “impossible-looking” as what Mary Slessor did.
1. Fourteen year old Mary Slessor worked long 10 hour days over a loom to make money to keep the rest of her family alive. Her father was a drunk and her mother was home with six children, including a newborn.

2. Mary dreamed of going to Calabar to tell others about Jesus, but she knew she must stay and help the family.

3. She decided to prepare anyway by teaching herself as she worked on the loom; and, by going to the most dangerous people in Dundee to tell them about Jesus.

4. One night the leader of a gang threatened to hit her in the head with a heavy piece of lead tied to a rope.

5. Mary bargained with him that if she did not flinch that he would have to come to church with her. Mary did not flinch, and the gang leader and the gang went to church. Many became Christians.

6. After a few years, Mary got to go to Calabar. She found that life was dangerous, with crocodiles, lions, and elephants, and disease-carrying insects.

7. The people were vicious cannibals who did not want to hear about Jesus.

8. Mary wanted to go inland up the Okoyong River to tell the even more vicious people there about Jesus. She and her adopted five children paddled up the river, even warding off a hippo by throwing a pot down its mouth.

9. Chief Edem welcomed her for her bravery and she began to tell them about Jesus, healed treated their illnesses, and gave them godly advice.

10. One day a messenger from another village begged Mary to come treat their chief who was dying and keep many men from being killed. Even though Chief Edem and Ma Eme warned against it, Mary trusted the Lord.

11. She walked miles through the jungle in rain and deep mud, arriving at the village very sick.

12. She healed the chief and the other men lived. She told them that she had come to tell them about Jesus and His Father.

13. God protected Mary for 38 long years in the jungle, trusting in Him and telling others about Him.
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Drama Group Resources
   - Plan-a-Play Story Guide
   - Act-It-Out Sheet

   *(Speaker Sheets are found in Appendix B: Drama Group)*

2. Games Groups Resources
   - Story Review Discussion Questions
   - Big Idea Discussion Questions
   - Scripture Verse Discussion Questions

   *(Directions to Games are found in Appendix C: Games Groups)*

3. Songs Groups Resources
   - Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
   - Hymn Discussion Sheet

   *(Lyrics, Music and Sign Language for both songs found Big Idea Music Resources, at the front of the curriculum this Big Idea)*

   *(Song Intro Sheet is found in Appendix F: Songs Groups)*

4. Craft Resources
   - Craft Instructions and Resources

   *(Presenter Sheets found in Appendix E: Craft Group)*

5. VIPP Resources
   - VIPP Prayer Letter

   *(VIPP Clue Cards and Directions for VIPP Games are found in Appendix E: VIPP Group)*
1. Setting (Narrators 2-4)

When? About 125 years ago
Where? Dundee, Scotland & Calabar, Africa
What’s it Like? Scotland: Beautiful, green, rainy, cloudy, often chilly; many factories where people (even children) had to work long hours for not much money.
Calabar: Jungles with dangerous lions, hippos, crocodiles, etc.; most people live in simple huts; many are cannibals

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)

Mary Slessor
Parents, brothers & sisters
School books
Cloth Factory
Rough gang members
Ship
Missionaries
Chief Edem
Ma Eme
Mary’s adopted children

Cannibals
The sick chief
Men who would die
The messenger
Hippo
Pot

3. What about the Big Idea? (Narrator 6)

Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Trust Him.
Mary Slessor trusted God again and again with her life as she courageously chose to fight off dangerous animals, diseases and cannibals to tell the people of Calabar about Jesus.

4. What do we call it? (Narrator 1)

Our Story is called:
Risking It All, Trusting through All

5. What’s it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)

Beginning:
Fourteen year old Mary Slessor worked long 10 hour days over a loom to make money to keep the rest of her family alive. Her father was a drunk and her mother was home with six children, including a newborn. Mary dreamed of going to Calabar to tell others about Jesus, but she knew she must stay and help the family. She decided to prepare anyway by teaching herself as she worked on the loom, and by going to the most dangerous people in Dundee to tell them about Jesus. One night the leader of a gang threatened to hit her in the head with a heavy piece of lead tied to a rope. Mary bargained with him that if she did not flinch that he would have to come to church with her. Mary did not flinch, and the gang leader and the gang went to church. Many became Christians.

Middle:
After a few years, Mary got to go to Calabar. She found that life was dangerous, with crocodiles, lions, and elephants, and disease-carrying insects. The people were vicious cannibals who did not want to hear about Jesus. Mary wanted to go inland up the Okoyong River to tell the even more vicious people there about Jesus. She and her adopted five children paddled up the river, even warding off a hippo by throwing a pot down its mouth. Chief Edem welcomed her for her bravery and she began to tell them about Jesus, healed treated their illnesses, and gave them godly advice.

End:
One day a messenger from another village begged Mary to come treat their chief who was dying and keep many men from being killed. Even though Chief Edem and Ma Eme warned against it, Mary trusted the Lord. She walked miles through the jungle in rain and deep mud, arriving at the village very sick. She healed the chief and the other men lived. She told them that she had come to tell them about Jesus and His Father. God protected Mary for 38 long years in the jungle, trusting in Him and telling others about Him.
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Middle:
After a few years, Mary got to go to Calabar. She found that life was dangerous, with crocodiles, lions, and elephants, and disease-carrying insects. The people were vicious cannibals who did not want to hear about Jesus. Mary wanted to go inland up the Okoyong River to tell the even more vicious people there about Jesus. She and her adopted five children paddled up the river, even warding off a hippo by throwing a pot down its mouth. Chief Edem welcomed her for her bravery and she began to tell them about Jesus, healed treated their illnesses, and gave them godly advice.

End:
One day a messenger from another village begged Mary to come treat their chief who was dying and keep many men from being killed. Even though Chief Edem and Ma Eme warned against it, Mary trusted the Lord. She walked miles through the jungle in rain and deep mud, arriving at the village very sick. She healed the chief and the other men lived. She told them that she had come to tell them about Jesus and His Father. God protected Mary for 38 long years in the jungle, trusting in Him and telling others about Him.
1. Why did Mary have to leave school and start working at the factory? She was the only one in her family who could work. Her mother had just had a baby; and many other children to care for; her father was a drunk.

2. What did Mary decide to do that would prepare her to go to Calabar, if she ever got to? Teach herself the Bible and other things she would need to study. Go to the most dangerous part of Dundee and tell those people about Jesus.

3. Why did Mary choose the most dangerous part of Dundee? Because it would be the most like going to dangerous Calabar and because most other Christians would not dare to go to tell those people about Jesus.

4. What did the gang leader do to Mary to scare her away? Twirled a heavy piece of lead near her head.

5. How did Mary use the gang leader’s threat to tell them about Jesus? She bargained with him that if she didn’t flinch then they would have to come to church with her.

6. How did the Lord bless Mary’s bravery with the gang? They came to hear about Jesus and many became Christians.

7. What difficult things did Mary find in Calabar? Malaria, leopards and lions; elephants that trampled people. Witch doctors and cannibals.

8. Why did most missionaries not want to go inland in Calabar? The people were even more vicious. They feared for their lives.

9. What happened to Mary and her children when they went up river? An angry hippo attacked them but she through a pot in its mouth and stopped it.

10. How did the Lord use Mary’s bravery to establish her in Chief Edem’s village? He admired her bravery, that was rooted in her trust in God.

11. What things did Mary do in Chief Edem’s village? Tell them about Jesus, treat their diseases, give advice.

12. Why did the messengers want Mary to go to their village? Chief was deathly sick and many men would die, if he died.

13. Why did Chief Edem and Ma Eme tell her not to go? The tribal peoples or the wild animals would kill her.

14. What hardships did Mary have to endure on her trip to the sick chief’s village? Her boots became so soaked with water that she threw them away and kept on walking through the muddy jungle bush in bare feet. The rain chilled her body and soon Mary was sick with a terrible fever and headache. It took every ounce of strength she had to not give up, but keep moving her trembling, weak body forward to the village where the dying chief lay.

15. What did the people want to know when the chief got better? What did Mary tell them? “Where does your power come from?” She came to tell them about Jesus Christ, the Great Physician, Savior, and Son of God; and His Father, God, who made all things.

16. How many years did Mary live in the jungle and how many did the others think she would probably live? 38 years; they thought she would be killed quickly.

17. Why didn’t Mary die, even though she faced all the dangers they warned her about? Because she trusted the Lord and knew that He would lead her. She would only die in His perfect timing.

**Big Idea Connections**

What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Mary Slessor trusted God again and again with her life as she courageously chose to fight off dangerous animals, diseases and cannibals to tell the people of Calabar about Jesus.

**Scripture Verse Connections**

What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: **Proverbs 3:5-6**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”
Mary had to trust the Lord about, rather than lean on her own understanding. She had to trust that He would keep her safe even among the cannibals who had killed & even eaten the other missionaries; that He would protect her from other things like wild animals & diseases; that whether she lived or died, it would be according to His perfect wisdom & timing.

Life Application
1. Are there still places in the world that need to hear about Jesus? Yes!
2. Who will go today to reach these peoples with the good news of Jesus? God’s people today, maybe even you and me!
3. Why is it so important that Christians tell others about Jesus? How will they be saved from the punishment that they rightly deserve for their sins if no one tells them? And, because Jesus commanded His people to go into every part of the world and tell them about salvation through Him. Also, because God has planned for His people to be from every people on earth. Spreading the good news of Jesus brings honor and glory to God’s great name.
4. What is the first step God calls us all to take in trusting Him? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

The Gospel
What was the good news of Jesus that Mary risked her life to tell others? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? Praise God for being the Protector and Sustainer of His people. They can even survive in the most dangerous parts of the world because God will protect them and sustain them according to His perfect will.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that we, like the people of Calabar and all other people, deserve God’s punishment. We all need to confess our sins to Him and ask His forgiveness! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God giving His people the strength, love and courage to care for people and tell them about Jesus, even in the hardest of situations.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to make us like Mary: willing to go to even very dangerous places to tell others about Him.

Playing the Game: Use the same questions in your story review game as you used in your discussion.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
Red and Green Construction paper
2 rulers
4 Large pieces of paper and a Marker
Masking Tape
Four small pieces of paper
Cup or bag
Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions
Optional: Team Pennies to differentiate each team

Preparing the Game
Supplement the Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Story Review concepts to their lives.

Write the Story Review questions on small thin strips of paper. Tape (or pin) these to all sorts of secret places on the detective outfit, such as on the bottom of your shoe, underneath your watch band, inside the hat, on the side of the glasses, etc.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into teams. At the leader’s signal, all the children will run to one of the four signs and place their hand on it or near it. When leader yells “Freeze” then the children must stay at their station. The leader then pulls one of the pieces of paper out of the cup and asks the children at that particular station a Story Review question. If they get it right, then they gain as many points as children from that team who were at that station. Play then resumes again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity:
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time.
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Big Idea Concept: God's People Trust Him

Understanding the Big Idea
1. What does trusting God mean? Resting in God’s care and plan.
2. What does it mean to rest in God’s care and plan? To not worry, but believe that God knows what is best and will do it.
3. What do God’s people know about God that helps them trust Him? He is completely powerful, wise, good, and perfect in His timing.
4. What will God use everything that happens to do? To bring glory to His name and to do good to them.
5. How does God’s all-powerfulness help God’s people trust in Him? They know that He is ABLE to do whatever He wants to do.
6. How does God’s perfect wisdom and love help God’s people trust in Him? They know that what He plans is only good.
7. How does God’s perfect timing help God’s people trust in Him? They know that He knows exactly when things should happen.
8. What can God’s people always depend on Him to do for them, even if it is very hard? To take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do.
9. Why won’t God’s people trust God perfectly while they live on earth? Because they are still sinners.
10. Who helps God’s people trust in Him? The Holy Spirit, working in their hearts.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
1. What did Mary have to trust the Lord about? That He would take care of her, even in the face of wild animals, diseases, and cannibals who had killed the other missionaries who ventured inland in Calabar. That He would only let things happen to her that were for His glory & her good.
2. How did Mary show she trusted the Lord? She did not let fear or the warnings of others keep her from going up river into the most dangerous parts of Calabar. She even took her children with her. She wanted the people there to hear about Jesus so much.

Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight...”
This verse encourages God’s people to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.
Life Application Questions
1. What are some times when it is hard for us to trust in the Lord? Answers vary.
2. What should God’s people do when it is hard to trust in the Lord? Tell others and have them pray for them; ask the Lord to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them trust Him.
3. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
   Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.

Gospel Question
The first step in trusting God is trusting Him to be our Savior? Why do we need to do this? How do we do this? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
Two or Three soft baseball sized balls. Or, could use beach balls

Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

Preparing the Game
Supplement the Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Big Idea Concepts to their lives.

Write the Big Idea questions on small thin strips of paper and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game
Have children sit is a circle on the ground, with about 2’ spacing. Give them two or three soft indoor baseballs and are to throw them from one to another, avoiding “It” who is moving around trying to catch one. When a ball is caught, the child who threw the ball chooses a question for the class to answer. If correctly answered, the player becomes the new “It”. If not, then the old “It” remains in place.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Scripture

1. What does it mean to trust in the LORD? To have so much confidence in God’s love, power, goodness, wisdom & timing in all things, that you can rest joyfully in Him, even in very hard times.
2. What does is our “heart”? This kind of heart is not the kind that beats. It is the part of you that thinks, feels, loves, and can know God.
3. What does it mean to trust the LORD with all of your heart? It means that you don’t just do things that make it looks like you trust God, but that deep inside you really, really believe that you can trust Him. Because you trust Him with all of your heart, that changes the way you think and feel about things on the inside, and the way you act on the outside—even in very hard times.
4. What does it mean to “lean on your own understanding”? It means to depend only on what you know about something.
5. What does it mean to acknowledge God in all our ways? It means to remember that only God is completely good, wise, loving and powerful. Only He knows the reasons for everything that happens to us.
6. Why should we acknowledge God in our ways rather than lean on our own understanding? Because we are just humans and can’t understand so many things. Only God knows enough to really understand what is best and is powerful enough to do it.
7. What does it mean for God to make our paths straight? It doesn’t mean that He will make paths or roads that we walk on without curves. It means that He will show us what to do, even though we don’t understand everything.

Big Idea Connection

What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people are to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.

Story Connection

What does the verse have to do with our story? What did Mary have to trust the Lord about, rather than lean on her own understanding? That He would keep her safe even among the cannibals who had killed & even eaten the other missionaries; that He would protect her from other things like wild animals & diseases; that whether she lived or died, it would be according to His perfect wisdom & timing.

Life Application

1. What is something that you or someone you know has to trust God about right now? How could you encourage them to trust God instead of worrying?
2. What is the best first step in trusting God for all of us? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being always worthy of being trusted.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. We love to do things our own way. We love to trust in our own understanding. Too often we do not want to trust in God or do things His way. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can thank God that when we trust in Him that He will show us what He wants us to do. We do not have to rely on our own understanding.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit that we might trust in Him and not on our own understanding to show us what He wants us to do.

Gospel Question
All people are sinners who deserve God’s punishment for their sins. What do we all need to trust Jesus to do for us? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Preparing the Children for the Scripture Verse Game
Introduce and Practice Shortened Games version before playing game.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
SCRAMBLED EGGS
Scripture Verse Game

Materials
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
Plastic Hollow Easter Eggs, 10 of one color for each team
Pen and paper
2 carpet squares or other base marker

Preparing the Game
Clearly print out the words to the verse on paper and cut it into 10+ sections. Number each section in sequence. Place each section in Easter eggs of the same color. Print out another copy of the verse, also numbered sequentially on another piece of paper. Repeat for each team.

Hide the eggs around the classroom. Place the two carpet squares down in opposite ends of the classroom.

Learning the Verse
Hold up the Scripture Verse sign from the Big Idea Folder for all the children to see. Read it slowly with them reading along with you. Remind them of the meaning of the verse, noting key words that may need explaining. Practice saying the verse with the children until they are fairly confident saying it from memory, probably 4 or 5 times.

Playing the Game
Have the children form two teams seated at their bases. Give each team a written out copy of the verse and place it on their base. Assign each team a particular color of Easter egg and tell them that pieces to the verse are hidden in eggs around the room. They are to find all their eggs, remove the verse section from the egg and put it in order. They can use the copy of the verse (and numbers on each section—especially helpful for pre- and early readers) to help them put it in order. The first team to find all the verse, put it in order and recite it as a group wins.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Trust in the Lord: Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all of your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding,  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart!  
Trust the LORD with all your heart!

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture

1. What does it mean to trust in the LORD? To have so much confidence in God’s love, power, goodness, wisdom & timing in all things, that you can rest joyfully in Him, even in very hard times.
2. What does is our “heart”? This kind of heart is not the kind that beats. It is the part of you that thinks, feels, loves, and can know God.
3. What does it mean to trust the LORD with all of your heart? It means that you don’t just do things that make it looks like you trust God, but that deep inside you really, really believe that you can trust Him. Because you trust Him with all of your heart, that changes the way you think and feel about things on the inside, and the way you act on the outside—even in very hard times.
4. What does it mean to “lean on your own understanding”? It means to depend only on what you know about something.
5. What does it mean to acknowledge God in all our ways? It means to remember that only God is completely good, wise, loving and powerful. Only He knows the reasons for everything that happens to us.
6. Why should we acknowledge God in our ways rather than lean on our own understanding? Because we are just humans and can’t understand so many things. Only God knows enough to really understand what is best and is powerful enough to do it.
7. What does it mean for God to make our paths straight? It doesn’t mean that He will make paths or roads that we walk on without curves. It means that He will show us what to do, even though we don’t understand everything.

Big Idea Connection

What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people are to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.

Story Connection

What does the verse have to do with our story? What did Mary have to trust the Lord about, rather than lean on her own understanding? That He would keep her safe even among the cannibals who had killed & even eaten the other missionaries; that He would protect her from other things like wild animals & diseases; that whether she lived or died, it would be according to His perfect wisdom & timing.

Life Application

1. What is something that you or someone you know has to trust God about right now? How could you encourage them to trust God instead of worrying?
2. What is the best first step in trusting God for all of us? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? *Praise God for being always worthy of being trusted.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? *That we are all sinners. We love to do things our own way. We love to trust in our own understanding. Too often we do not want to trust in God or do things His way. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? *We can thank God that when we trust in Him that He will show us what He wants us to do. We do not have to rely on our own understanding.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit that we might trust in Him and not on our own understanding to show us what He wants us to do.*

**Gospel Question**

All people are sinners who deserve God’s punishment for their sins. What do we all need to trust Jesus to do for us? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*

**Closing Large Group Time**

Sign and sing the song.
**Word Take Away**

**Song Game**

**Materials**
None

**Preparing the Game**
None.

**Playing the Game**
After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.

Have the children help you choose a word to take out.

Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.

Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.
Trust and Obey

Verse 2
Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey. (Refrain)

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song
1. What are the “burdens, sorrows and toil, grief, loss, frown, cross” the song is talking about? “Burdens” and “toil” are things that are difficult things we must do. “Sorrows” and “frown” mean sad things in our lives. “Loss” is losing someone/something we love; and “grief” is what we feel when we’ve lost it. The sadness we feel after something bad has happened. A “cross” is something hard that God has us suffer through for His good purposes, just like Jesus suffered and died on the cross for God’s good purposes. This song is about the hard things in life that happen to us or people we love and how hard they are for us to deal with.
2. Who is the “we” in this song? Christians: people who have confessed their sins to God, turned from them and now trust in Jesus as their Savior, living their lives for Him.
3. What will God do with every burden, sorrow and toil? Richly repay them.
4. How will God richly repay them, in money or something else? He will bless them by using them for His glory and our good and the good of others. In heaven, He promises to give us even greater blessings that we cannot imagine.
5. What does God want us to do as we go through these hard things? Trust and obey.
6. What does it mean to trust and obey? To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.
7. Why is it especially hard to keep trusting and obeying when hard things happen to us? Because many times we don’t understand God’s good purposes in the hard things that happen and it is easy to start doubting that He knows best and stop doing the things He has told us to do.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Trust Him? God is the only one who perfectly knows and understand His plans. Many times God’s people must trust Him and obey Him when there are many things they cannot understand. As hard as this may be at times, they know that because God is completely powerful, wise, good, and perfect in His timing, they can always trust that He knows best. This is the way to be “happy in Jesus.”

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Mary chose to trust and obey the Lord’s command to take the good news of Jesus to all people, even the dangerous gangs of Dundee and the dangerous cannibals of Calabar. Mary did not worry even in the most dangerous situations, but trusted that the Lord would take care of her and do what was best as she kept obeying Him.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: **Proverbs 3:5-6**
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”
Many times it is very hard to trust God when we have to bear hard “burdens” or sorrows. Many times God’s people do not understand why they have to go through them or what good thing God is doing through them. But God’s people know that they do not have to lean on their own understanding. Instead, they trust in the LORD with all their heart and obey whatever it is they know He wants them to do. They can trust that God will make their paths straight: He will help them to obey Him and He will use everything they are going through for their good and His glory.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people today be affected by the message of this song?
   *They can praise God for being completely worthy of their trust even in very hard times. They can ask Him to send His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them keep on trusting and obeying Him, no matter what.*
2. How can we become God’s people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
   *Praise God for being completely trustworthy.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
   *That many times we do not want to trust God or obey Him. We grumble and complain when we go through hard things instead of wanting God to work through them for His glory or our good.*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
   *We can thank God for using every single burden and sorrow that His people go through for their good and His glory.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
   *That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts to help us to trust Him and obey Him with every single burden we bear or sorrow we share.*

Gospel Question
We are all sinners who have not trusted and obeyed God. What do we deserve? How can we be saved?
What is the gospel?
*God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
Materials
None

Preparing the Game
None.

Playing the Game
After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.

Have the children help you choose a word to take out.

Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.

Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.
### A Pot in the Hippo’s Mouth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)</th>
<th>A Pot in the Hippo’s Mouth</th>
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| 2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2) | Where? On a hippo-infested river  
In Calabar |
| Who? Mary Slessor |
| Did What? Did not turn around and give up when she saw the angry hippo but made him go away by throwing |
| With the Big Idea Object? A pot in the hippo’s mouth |
| Why? Because she was willing to do anything to get up the river to tell the peoples living there about Jesus. |

### 3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Trust Him. Many missionaries did not dare go up the river because of the dangerous hippos and the even more dangerous people, but Mary chose to trust God with her life. She trusted Him to help her through whatever dangers she faced.

### 4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)

God’s people can trust Him to help them through even very dangerous situations He calls them to live in. He will always do what is good for them and for His glory. They can trust that!
A Pot in a Hippo’s Mouth

Description
The children will make a hippo puppet out of a brown lunch bag and a small “pot” to thrust down its mouth.

Materials
1 lunch bag per craft
Templates of hippo body parts
White paper, preferably cardstock
Markers and/or colored pencils
If desired, a wire twisty tie per craft (handle for the pot)
Glue sticks
Scissors
1 Nut/Candy cup per craft (as shown to the right)

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out the hippo parts onto cardstock and cut out (at least for youngest children).
2. Place lunch bag on table, bottom part at the top and folded side up. Flip the fold over, revealing the bottom side of the fold. Take scissors and snip hole big enough to fit the nut cup through, about 2” from top of flipped up fold. Repeat for each bag.
3. Set out decorating supplies.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children color in their hippo pieces.
3. Color in the pots (black for cast iron, if desired).
4. Add the handle to the pots by poking each end of the twisty tie into opposite sides of the nut cup and twisting each end around itself.
5. Place lunch bag on table, bottom part at the top and folded side up. Glue the hippo mouth to flap part of bag.
6. Flip over fold and glue top piece of open mouth to underneath side of the fold, above the throat hole.
7. Glue body to lower part of bag, lining up the two parts of the open mouth and being sure to leave the throat opening in the bag free.
8. Have children put bag on one hand and practice opening the mouth and putting the pot in the hole.
Hippo heads
Hippo body and
Upper mouth sections
Dear______________________________________________

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Trust Him.

Trusting God means resting joyfully in God's care and plan. God's people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. He only has them do what is for His glory and their good. He is always able to take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard. God's people know that they will not trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. But they know that God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, will help them to trust God more and more.

We thought about Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

I also prayed for you during ACTS time. Here are 4 things related to the Big Idea we prayed for in our ACTS prayer time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

A Praise God for being completely trustworthy.

C Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.

T Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us.

S Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and trustfully trust Him, even when our own selves ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and trustfully trust Him, even when our own selves, but they know that God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, will trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. He only has them do what is for His glory and their good. He is always able to take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard. God's people know that they will not trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. But they know that God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, will help them to trust God more and more.

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S Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.

Yours Sincerely,_____________________________________

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I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Trust Him.

Trusting God means resting joyfully in God's care and plan. God's people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. He only has them do what is for His glory and their good. He is always able to take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard. God's people know that they will not trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. But they know that God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, will help them to trust God more and more.

We thought about Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

I also prayed for you during ACTS time. Here are 4 things related to the Big Idea we prayed for in our ACTS prayer time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

A Praise God for being completely trustworthy.

C Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.

T Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us.

S Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.

Yours Sincerely,_____________________________________
Materials
The VIPP information sheets and clip art for two or more VIPPS, preferably of the same type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)
Tape
Different color construction paper for each picture.

Preparing the Game
Fill in the clue sheets for the VIPPs you are using. If desired, use a photocopier to reduce down the size of each clue sheet to a smaller size for easier use. Put the clue sheets for the VIPPS in a bag, except for the sheets with the names and pictures. Mix up.

Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag, except for the names and pictures. Mix up.

Use tape to put up the pictures of each VIPP on a piece of construction paper. Tape each up in a different location/wall around the room.

Playing the Game
Reveal, then Review Version:
Reveal: Tell them about each of the VIPPs you are using in the game, showing them the clues and reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet for each of them.

Review: Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag. Mix up. Have children stand together in middle of the room. Tell them that you will pull out a clip art clue, tell them what it is and they are to run to a picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up.

Get Clues, Then Guess Version:
Get Clues: Put the clues for the VIPPs in the bag and mix up. Read them the VIPP information sheets (or to make it even harder, don’t!).

Guess: Have children stand together in middle of room. Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and they are to run to picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up. Review the correctly finished profiles of each VIPP and information sheets at the end.
SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

Time | Activity
--- | ---
_____ | Arrive no later than this to prepare for session
_____ | My preparations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week 1 of Big Idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to do the singing portion:
- Sing/listen to the song through once without actions.
- Choose a movement (from the Movement Grab Bag, if using one) for the class to do while singing the song through once/twice more. Make this an aerobic activity to help get the wiggles out!
- Music for the WoGoLOA Chant is always the first song on each CD of the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs. The music for the Big Question and Unit Scripture Verse songs are always the first two songs of the music for each unit, also found on the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs.

Story time
Drama Group (or other designated) teacher tells story in a dramatic fashion, having decorated area with lots of props to be able to point to as they tell it. Use outline as a guide, adding in interested details from the text. Practice story. Do not just read it! Do not let it run more than 15 minutes.
**Session Schedule and Planning Sheet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td><strong>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td><strong>Snack and Discussion Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>• Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>• Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>1. What does the snack have to do with the story?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>• If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>• The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| ______ | **Activity Time**                                                        |
| ______ | Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here: |

| ______ | **ACTS Prayer Time** (Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead) |
| ______ | Lead the children in an ACTS prayer incorporating an ACTS related to the Big Idea, Scripture verse or story, (see lesson plan and discussion sheets for ideas) AS WELL AS any personal prayers. Ask for volunteers to pray the prayer, but never force a child to pray. Note: Drama Group will probably want to do this before Activity time, instead of after Activity Time, as this schedule suggests) |

| ______ | **Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time**                |
| ______ | Have small groups present in the following order:                       |
| ______ | Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups.                   |
| ______ | Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game. |
WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN

Opening Large Group Time

All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

Activities:
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

Resources:
- All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 64 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 64 Scripture Verse Sign
- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

Story

Activities:
- Tell story,
- Close in Prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

Resources:
- Story: Not Even a Foot of Ground
  - Genesis 11:26–12:9; Joshua 24:2; Acts 7:2–5; Hebrews 11:8
  - Story Outline p.63
  - Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
  - Props, Costumes and Scenery

Don’t Forget!
Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery the Drama Group will later use in their play

Story-telling Refresher:
Introduction pp.23-25
Appendices A, B
Week 3 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time

All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer, and do one or more Small Group Activities.

Snack

Sticks and stones Chex mix cereal “altar” with Teddy graham Abram near it, under a celery tree standing up right in a dab of peanut butter (or cream cheese). Also can use the peanut butter/cream cheese to stand up Abram. Warning: Ask about allergies to nuts!

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
C  Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.
T  Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.
S  Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.

Drama

Activities:
Discuss story
Fill in Speaker Sheets
Practice Play

Resources:
Plan-a-Play Story Guide, p. 64
Speaker Sheets  Appendix B, Drama Group

Story Review Game: Tell the Truth Basketball

Activities:
Discuss story
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

Resources:
Story Review Discussion Questions Sheet  pp. 65-66
Story Review Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN
Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Red Light, Green Light for Storks

**Activities:**
- Discuss Big Idea
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 67-68
- Big Idea Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups

Big Idea Craft: An Altar to the LORD

**Activities:**
- Discuss Story
- Fill in Presenter Sheets
- Make Craft

**Resources:**
- Big Idea-Craft Connection Guide, p. 75
- Craft Directions, p.76
- Presenter Sheets, Appendix D: Craft Group

VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Crabbin/ Around

**Activities:**
- Discuss story
- Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game
- Decorate VIPP Clue Cards Pray for VIPP
- Decorate VIPP Prayer Letter

**Resources:**
- VIPP Game Directions: Appendix E: VIPP Group
- VIPP Prayer Letter

Scripture Verse Game: Ball Circle Toss

**Activities:**
- Discuss Scripture Verse
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 69-70
- Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
Week 3 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Scripture Song: Trust in the Lord: Proverbs 3:5-6

Activities:
- Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice
  (and Scripture Verse Game, see above)
- Fill in Song Intro Sheet

Resources:
- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet pp.71-72
- Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea

- Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
- Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
- Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs

Hymn: Trust and Obey: Verse 2

Activities:
- Discuss Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice
- Fill in Song Intro Sheet

Resources:
- Hymn Discussion Questions Sheet, pp.73-74
- Hymn Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
- Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
- Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
- Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
Closing Large Group Time

The Small Groups make a presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity.

Activity Presentations

**Drama**
- The Play, Introduced by the Speakers

**Story Review Game**
- Ask Story Review Questions

**Big Idea Game**
- Read the Big Idea
- Ask Big Idea Quiz Questions

**Big Idea Craft**
- Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets

**VIPP Game and Clue Cards**
- Share Clues about VIPP
- Pray for the VIPP

**Scripture Verse Game**
- Read Scripture Verse
- Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

**Scripture Song**
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

**Hymn**
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

**Closing Prayer**

**Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C**

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
**WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN**

### Opening Large Group Time

All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

**Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt**

**Activities:**
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

**Resources:**
*All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea*
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 64 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 64 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

### Story

**Activities:**
- Tell story
- Close in prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

**Resources:**

**Story: Love Does Not Fail** 1 Samuel 17-20; 2 Samuel 9
- Story Outline p.63
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

**Don’t Forget!**
Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery the Drama Group will later use in their play

**Story-telling Refresher:**
- Introduction pp.23-25
- Appendices A, B
Small Group Activities:
Snack and Discussion Time

All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer before doing Small Group activities, listed on the next page.

Snack

Carrot stick “bow” strung with shoelace red licorice by making a small notch in each end of the carrot and inserting the licorice. String the “bow” by laying a pretzel stick “arrow” across the middle starting with the licorice. (Carrot sticks should be cut into thin sticks and then apply just enough pressure on both ends at the same time until they break almost completely through in the middle, making a hinge and a place where the pretzel arrow rests on the bow.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
C  Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.
T  Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.
S  Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.
WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN

Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Activity Time
After snack and discussion time, each group of Kindergarteners take part in one or two activities, as time allows.

Group 1 Activities
Use Group 1 Activities if you have just one Kindergarten groups; or, for half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 1, First Activity: Act-It-Out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Act out story all together</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Act-It-Out Sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan-a-Play Story Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Story, pp. 61-63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then, as time allows, followed by...

Group 1, Second Activity: Big Idea Game
(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Kindergarten Games:: Big Idea Games, Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Group 2 Activities

Use Group 2 Activities for the other half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 2, First Activity: Scripture Verse Game
(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss Scripture Verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 69-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 2, Second Activity: VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game, or VIPP Prayer Letter
(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorate VIPP Clue Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorate VIPP Prayer Letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pray for VIPP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Game Directions: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Prayer Letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Clue Cards: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Closing Large Group Time

The Small Groups can make presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity. These are optional for The Kindergarten groups.

Activity Presentations

**Story Review/Big Idea Game**
- Ask Story Review/Big Idea Questions

**VIPP Game and Clue Cards**
- Share Clues about VIPP
- Pray for the VIPP

**Act-It-Out**
- Act out a few actions from Beginning, Middle, End as teacher tells the story briefly

**Scripture Song**
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

**Scripture Verse Game**
- Read Scripture Verse
- Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

**Closing Prayer**

**Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C**

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
Our story today takes place about 4000 years ago. It starts out far to the south and the east of Israel in the city of Ur. “Ur!” you might think, “What kind of name is that for a city? Who’s ever heard of that place?!”

Well, maybe Ur might not mean much to us these days; but, 4000 years ago, Ur was like the New York City of the world. It was the capital of Sumer, home to the king and all his government servants. Almost a half million people lived and worked within the seventy-five-foot thick walls of this bustling city. With textile (cloth) and pottery factories; international shipping and trade; schools and universities; and markets galore, there was plenty work for everyone. Ships would dock in its harbor, laden with the newest, most exotic goods from other parts of the world. Craftsmen would make the most exquisite jewelry of gold and silver. People lived in the finest houses, had the best clothes, finest jewels, and the richest lifestyles of the world. Ladies would parade around in their long dresses of finest linen, escorted by their fine looking men wearing long pleated kilts of wool.

But to the people of Ur, the most important thing in the whole city was the giant temple of the Moon God, Nannar. They believed Nannar did not just have control over the moon, but over everything that made life good and rich. They believed he gave them good crops, rivers teeming with fish, rain from the sky, animals in the fields, and children.

It was important to keep Nannar happy, no matter what it took. So they made his temple an enormous 70 foot ziggurat tower built of clay bricks, with three different sized levels, each painted a bright color. Beautiful gardens adorned its sides, with vines of flowers cascading down its walls. The bottom level was bigger than a football field. The top level was much smaller, but it was most important of all. For on it sat the shrine to Nannar. Here Nannar’s priests, priestesses, and musicians led worship to him: “Father Nannar, moon god, prince of the gods,” they would pray, “You are maker of gods and men. You give them homes and all that is good, you make living things grow. We praise you!” (paraphrased from “Hymn to Nannar,” Dawn of Civilization 654) They led colorful parades and festivals in his honor; but also did many sinful things that they thought pleased him. If Nannar really was the one who made them all so rich, then the people of Ur wanted to do whatever it would take to keep him happy.

Terah and his sons, Haran, Nahor, and Abram, certainly would have agreed that it was important to keep Nannar happy. For he and his family had lived in Ur for years and had grown to be very wealthy and important merchants there. Terah was an avid worshiper of Nannar. What was good for Nannar had been good for Terah and his family. The last thing he wanted was for Nanna to be unhappy and his business to go bad. If Nannar really was in charge of making everything rich, then Terah and his sons owed him a lot.

But to Terah’s amazement, one day when Terah invited his sons to accompany him to one of the
celebrations for Nannar, Abram refused to come. What could have happened? Why would anyone in Ur stop worshiping Nannar? Didn’t Abram know this might bring Nannar’s displeasure upon him and his family? Who would want to do that?

Abram must have had a very good reason; and, as it turned out, he did. For after all those years of worshiping Nannar and thinking he was real, something had happened that showed him that Nannar was no god at all. There was another god, unlike Nannar or any other god that anyone in Ur had ever heard of. And this God—the LORD—had made a glorious appearance to Abram!

The LORD said to Abram: “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

Abram had grown up learning all about Nannar and he knew that this God who appeared to him was nothing like Nannar! Abram had seen Him only once, yet it was enough to know that He was completely good, completely powerful, completely wise—completely holy and glorious. This God was the only true God. Nannar was nothing!

And, oh, what promises this true God made him! “I will make you a great nation….I will bless you…I will make your name great….all peoples on earth will be blessed through you!” the LORD had promised him.

Wow! What an amazing promise! But, oh, what a sacrifice Abram would have to make to follow this true God! It wouldn’t be enough for Abram to just stop worshipping Nannar and the other lesser gods of Ur. The LORD was telling Abram to leave everything and follow Him to some land He would lead Abram to. That was scary! Leave the big city with its safe seventy five foot thick walls…and the best of everything for Abram to enjoy? Leave his fine house and have to camp in tents? Go on some dangerous roads where robbers might wait to steal their things and kill them? Leave his family, the only people on earth he could count on to help him? Why, no citizen of Ur was even allowed to move away from Ur without special permission of the king! Abram would even have to figure out how to leave Ur!

This God was asking Abram to love Him more than anything else! Abram would have to trust Him completely, if he were to obey Him. Could he really trust this God with his whole life? Did he really want to do this? God gave Abram faith to believe in Him with all his heart.

“Yes, God, I will trust in You. Yes, God, I will stop worshiping Nanna and worship You. I will give up everything and follow You. And I will rest joyfully in You and trust that you will take care of me and help me to do whatever You want me to do, even if it is very hard,” Abram answered.

Abram soon saw that God was as trustworthy as he had hoped, for He placed on Terah’s heart a desire to move from lavish, modern Ur to the land called Canaan, a land of simple living 1400 miles down the merchant route that led to Egypt. While most people in Ur would have been refused permission to leave, Terah was important enough to get the special permission from the king they needed to leave Ur.
“Load up the donkeys with all our things! Everything must go. We are never coming back,” Terah and Abram told the servants. Donkey after donkey was loaded down until everything was ready. Flocks of sheep and goats were gathered together. Terah and Abram said a tearful goodbye to the relatives they were leaving behind and then they were off.

Down the dusty road they traveled. Did Abram ever look back to take a last glimpse of Nannar’s great ziggurat and re-think what he was doing? That night when they slept out in tents and ate food cooked over an open fire instead of in their beautiful home in Ur, did Abram ever re-think what he was doing? After all, Abram had nothing but God’s word to trust in. He didn’t know to what place the LORD was taking him or when he’d get there. He didn’t have any idea how the LORD would bring about all the blessings He promised him.

Would this God really protect him and bless him more than Nannar had? It would be easy to think these sorts of things and want to change his mind before it was too late. But, no. Abram had no thoughts of that. God gave Abram faith to believe in Him with all his heart. “Yes, God, I will trust in You. Yes, God, I will leave my country and my people. I will give up everything and follow You. And I will rest joyfully in You and trust that you will take care of me and help me to do whatever You want me to do, even if it is very hard.

Days turned into weeks turned into months as Terah and Abram traveled on and on. At last they came to the great caravan city of Haran, a favorite trading post for merchants traveling between Egypt and Ur. Terah was excited to be in Haran. The area around Haran was good for grazing flocks and there were plenty of other merchants and traders to do business with. Best of all, the people of Haran were also worshipers of Nannar, the Moon God. There was a temple to Nannar in which Terah could make offerings to his god again. Canaan was another 600 miles difficult journey ahead and Terah was tired.

“I am stopping here, Abram. I’m not going any further,” Terah told his son. “Haran is my new home. We are settling down here.”

What should Abram do? He still felt the LORD calling onward to the place He had promised him. Haran was not to be his home; yet, what about his father? He was already 145 years old. After all, Terah would have no other family to take care of him in his old age. Shouldn’t he stay to take care of him? That’s what good sons do. If Abram left, he would be abandoning his father and Terah very well would disown him and treat him as if he was not his son anymore.

But Abram remembered the LORD’s words to him: “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you…” Following this God meant giving up everything, even his father! Could he really do that?

God gave Abram faith to believe and trust in Him with all his heart. “Yes, God, I will trust in You. Yes, God, I will leave my father and his household. I will give up everything and follow You. I will rest joyfully in You and trust that you will take care of me and help me to do whatever You want me to do, even if it is very hard,” Abram told the Lord. So Abram said goodbye to his father for the last time and left Haran.
Which way would Abram go? The Lord still had not told him where this land was He was going to give to him. Now Abram had no one to trust in but this God of His and he prayed for Him to lead him. The LORD led him south and westward away from Haran and away from Ur—on to Canaan.

Over tall mountains, through narrow passes, then down, down, down into the deep valley of the Jordan River and up again along a steep road through more mountains. Day after day, for four hundred miles of weary travel, Abram kept following the LORD’s guidance to keep going. Did he wonder about the place was the LORD was taking him to? Did he wonder when the traveling would ever be over? If he did, the LORD gave him even more faith to believe and trust in Him with all his heart. “Yes, God, I will trust in You. Yes, God, I will keep following you to this land You promised to show me, even though I am very tired. I will give up everything and follow You. I will rest joyfully in You and trust that you will take care of me and help me to do whatever You want me to do, even if it is very hard.”

As Abram came up to the last crest of the mountains, Abram looked down and saw the most beautiful sight: green, green valleys, rolling hills, rich, black soil, forests full of trees and wildlife. What land was this? Could this be Canaan? Abram could not help but hope that it was.

The answer became all too clear as Abram and his caravan came to the town of Shechem. This was Canaan, all right! And it was filled with Canaanites! If this was the land the Lord was giving Abraham, someone needed to tell the Canaanites, because they certainly didn’t act ready to just hand it over to Abram. What was worse, the Canaanites certainly were no worshipers of the Lord. That was clear enough when Abram walked outside of town to the giant oak tree called Moreh. Here the Canaanites had placed carvings of their idols and made offerings to them there.

He had done what the LORD had told him to do: he had traveled to Canaan. “But now what?” he thought as he stood by Moreh.

Suddenly the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land. [Canaan is to belong to your family.]” (Genesis 12:7, NIV)

The LORD was promising to get rid of the Canaanites and their idols and give the land to his family! That sounded almost too hard to believe; yet, the LORD gave Abram faith to trust Him.

So, right there next to Moreh, in front of the Canaanites and their idols, Abram built an altar to the Lord, offered a thank offering and worshiped Him:

“Yes, God, You are the true God and I will trust in You,” Abram prayed. “I do not know how You will give this land filled with Canaanites and idols to my offspring, but I will rest joyfully in You, and trust that not only will You will take care of me and will fulfill Your promise to me.”

Our Big Idea is: **God’s People Trust Him**

Our Scripture Verse is: **Proverbs 3:5-6**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.”
Abram gave up everything and trusted God to take care of him and to be faithful to His promises to him. And did you know that Abram died before he saw any of the promises come true? Not even a foot of the ground of Canaan had become his when he died. Even so, Abram died trusting the LORD that He would make them come true in His perfect wisdom and timing.

Abram was right to trust the LORD because He was true to every one of those promises: He made Abram’s children into the nation of Israel. He made Abram’s name so great that he is still one of the most famous people in the world. And best of all, the LORD has blessed all nations of all times and places through Abram, by sending Jesus, who was the great, great, great, great, etc. grandson of Abram.

What about you and me? God has given us amazing promises, too. He promises that if you and I confess our sins to Him and trust in Him as our Savior, He will forgive our sins. He promises to make us His very own people, loving and caring for us all of our lives. Then after we die, He will bring us to live with Him forever in heaven.

What will we do with these promises? Will we trust in them and follow the LORD as Abram did? I hope so. Let’s praise this God who is always completely worthy of all our trust. Let’s ask Him to help us believe in Him and trust Him with all of our life, always ready to obey Him, no matter what He wants us to do.
1. Terah and his family lived in Ur, one of the most modern, important cities in the world.
2. Terah and his sons had grown rich as merchants and lived in luxury there. They worshiped and thanked Nannar, the god of Ur, for his blessing upon their work.
3. One day the Lord appeared in His glory to Abram. He made promises to make him into a great nation, to bless him, and to bless all nations through him; but, He commanded Abram to leave his country, his people and even his father’s house (his family) and follow Him to a new land.
4. Abram stopped worshiping Nannar. He believed the Lord and worshiped Him.
5. The Lord laid on Terah’s heart to leave Ur, too. Terah get the needed permission and he along with Abram and Lot move from Ur and head to Canaan.
6. After months of traveling, they arrive in Haran. It is another center of worship of Nannar. Terah decides to settle there rather than moving onto to Canaan.
7. Abram still feels God’s call to leave his father’s house and follow the Lord to a new land. He says goodbye to Terah and follows the Lord’s leading toward Canaan.
8. After traveling over barren lands, Abram comes into beautiful hills and valleys of Canaan.
9. Abram sees the land is beautiful, but it is also filled with Canaanites and their idols.
10. The Lord appears to Abram again, outside Shechem at the tree of Moreh, where the Canaanites also had shrines to their idols. He tells Abram that this is the land that He will give his family.
11. Abram believes the Lord, builds an altar and makes a sacrifice to Him right there.
12. Abram died many years later still without even a foot of ground of Canaan given to his family yet. But Abram still did not doubt, but trusted the Lord for what He had promised.
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Drama Group Resources

   Plan-a-Play Story Guide
   Act-It-Out Sheet

   *(Speaker Sheets are found in Appendix B: Drama Group)*

2. Games Groups Resources

   Story Review Discussion Questions
   Big Idea Discussion Questions
   Scripture Verse Discussion Questions

   *(Directions to Games are found in Appendix C: Games Groups)*

3. Songs Groups Resources

   Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
   Hymn Discussion Sheet

   *(Lyrics, Music and Sign Language for both songs found Big Idea Music Resources, at the front of the curriculum this Big Idea)*

   *(Song Intro Sheet is found in Appendix F: Songs Groups)*

4. Craft Resources

   Craft Instructions and Resources

   *(Presenter Sheets found in Appendix E: Craft Group)*

5. VIPP Resources

   VIPP Prayer Letter

   *(VIPP Clue Cards and Directions for VIPP Games are found in Appendix E: VIPP Group)*
1. Setting (Narrators 2-4)

When? About 4000 years ago

Where? In Ur and in Canaan

What’s It Like?

Ur: the New York City of its day. One of most modern, well-educated, wealthy city in the world; many people; city of Nannar, the Moon god.

Canaan: Beautiful, green rolling hills and valleys; very simple way of life; home of the Canaanites and their idols.

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)

Rich city of Ur
Nannar and his temple
Terah
Abram
King
Rich house
Caravan of donkeys with things
Haran
Mountains and valleys of Canaan
Canaanites

3. What about the Big Idea? (Narrator 6)

Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Trust Him. Abram answered the LORD’s call for him to leave his country, his people, and his family to follow Him. He believed in the Lord and trusted Him completely.

4. What do we call it? (Narrator 1)

Abram Trusts the Lord

5. What’s it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)

Beginning:
Terah and his family lived in Ur, one of the most modern, important cities in the world. Terah and his sons had grown rich as merchants and lived in luxury there. They worshiped and thanked Nannar, the god of Ur, for his blessing upon their work. One day the Lord appeared in His glory to Abram. He made promises to make him into a great nation, to bless him, and to bless all nations through him; but, He commanded Abram to leave his country, his people and even his father’s house (his family) and follow Him to a new land. Abram stopped worshiping Nannar. He believed the Lord and worshiped Him. Abram still feels God’s call to leave his father’s house and follow the Lord to a new land. He says goodbye to Terah and follows the Lord’s leading toward Canaan.

Middle:
The Lord laid on Terah’s heart to leave Ur, too. Terah get the needed permission and he along with Abram and Lot move from Ur and head to Canaan. After months of traveling, they arrive in Haran. It is another center of worship of Nannar. Terah decides to settle there rather than moving onto to Canaan.

End:
After traveling over barren lands, Abram comes into beautiful hills and valleys of Canaan. Abram sees the land is beautiful, but it is also filled with Canaanites and their idols. The Lord appears to Abram again, outside Shechem at the tree of Moreh, where the Canaanites also had shrines to their idols. He tells Abram that this is the land that He will give his family. Abram believes the Lord, builds an altar and makes a sacrifice to Him right there. Abram died many years later still without even a foot of ground of Canaan given to his family yet. But Abram still did not doubt, but trusted the Lord for what He had promised.
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1. What was Ur like? Like the New York City of its day. Capitol of Sumer, home to the king and all his government servants. Almost a half million people lived and worked within the seventy-five-foot thick walls of this bustling city. With textile (cloth) and pottery factories; international shipping and trade; schools and universities; and markets galore, there was plenty work for everyone. Ships would dock in its harbor, laden with the newest, most exotic goods from other parts of the world. Craftsmen would make the most exquisite jewelry of gold and silver. People lived in the finest houses, had the best clothes, finest jewels, and the richest lifestyles of the world. Ladies would parade around in their long dresses of finest linen, escorted by their fine looking men wearing long pleated kilts of wool. Huge temple to Nannar, their god.


3. What happened that caused Abram to stop worshiping Nannar? Who did he worship instead? The LORD appeared to Abram and told him to worship Him instead. He told Abram to leave Ur and go to Canaan.

4. What did the Lord promise Abram? I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

5. What did the Lord want Abram to do? Why would this have been hard? Leave his country, his people and his father’s house and follow the Lord to a land He would show him. Ur was the most modern city of the world and Abram enjoyed a rich life there. Abram would have to leave that behind to go to some unknown place. He would leave his people behind and be like a stranger somewhere else. If he left his father’s house, he would be leaving the only people who he could count on to help him in times of trouble or sickness. He didn’t even know where he was going to or what it would be like.

6. Where did Terah plan to go to and why didn’t he get there? Canaan. We don’t know, but maybe because the land around Haran was good and because of the temple to Nannar.

7. What would Terah have liked especially about Haran? Worship of Nannar

8. Why didn’t Abram stay in Haran? How did he know where to go? The Lord called him on. He guided Abram where He wanted him to go.

9. What did Abram do at the Tree of Moreh to show that he trusted the Lord? Made an altar & worshiped Him.

10. How much of the Lord’s promises had Abram received when he died? none!

11. How was it that Abram had so much faith and trust in the Lord? The Lord gave him the grace to believe and trust.

Big Idea Connections
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Abram answered the LORD’s call for him to leave his country, his people, and his family to follow Him. He believed in the Lord and trusted Him completely.

Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Abram had to trust the LORD rather than lean on her own understanding in how He (the LORD)—not Nannar or the Canaanite idols—would take care of him and prosper him; that He would take care of him even though he had left all his family behind; that would one day give him Canaan and make his family into a great nation.
Life Application
What should we do if we know God wants us to trust and obey Him, but are having a hard time doing it?
Tell our parents, Christian friends, teachers so they will pray and encourage us. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit
to work in our hearts and give us more trust and obedience to Him.
2. What is the best first step God calls us each to make in trusting Him? To turn away from our sins and trust
in Jesus as our Savior.

The Gospel
Abram lived before Jesus’ day, but God promised him that all people would be blessed through one of
his children. Abram looked forward in faith to the day this child would come and how he would save
God’s people. Who was this child? How did he bless all peoples? What is that good news of salvation
through Jesus? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to
worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel
against God. They have chosen to live their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their
disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer
up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess
their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing
that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior,
God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and
enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with
the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to
live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? Praise God for being
completely trustworthy.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that many times we do not
trust God as Abram did. We choose to do things our own way, not God’s. We deserve God’s punishment. We all
need to confess our sins to Him and ask His forgiveness! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for giving
Abram faith to believe in Him. We can thank God for fulfilling His promises to Abram by sending His Son Jesus
to save His people from their sins.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our
hearts, helping us to turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy
Spirit to work in our hearts that we might trust God and obey Him like Abram did.

Playing the Game: Use the same questions in your story review game as you used in your discussion.
Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as
their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the
children make up their own.
Tell the Truth Basketball

Story Review Game

Materials
3 baskets
A ball
Paper and marker
Masking Tape
20+ statements that are true, false or not in the story

Preparing the Game
Supplement the Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Story Review concepts to their lives.

Write the words “true,” “false,” and “not in the story” on separate pieces of paper and tape each to a basket. Use the masking tape to make a throw line. Place the baskets in a line, a reasonable throwing distance from the throwing line.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into 2 teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child to come up to the throw line. Read him one of the statements and ask him to give his answer: true, false, not in the story by throwing the ball into the basket with the right answer card on it. If correct, then he scores 2 points for his team. If incorrect or accidentally goes into the wrong basket, the statement is read to the first person in line for the other team. If he tosses the ball into the right basket, then he scores one point for his team.

Play continues as statement cards last, or as time and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity:
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time.
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Big Idea
1. What does trusting God mean? Resting in God’s care and plan.
2. What does it mean to rest in God’s care and plan? To not worry, but believe that God knows what is best and will do it.
3. What do God’s people know about God that helps them trust Him? He is completely powerful, wise, good, and perfect in His timing.
4. What will God use everything that happens to do? To bring glory to His name and to do good to them.
5. How does God’s all-powerfulness help God’s people trust in Him? They know that He is ABLE to do whatever He wants to do.
6. How does God’s perfect wisdom and love help God’s people trust in Him? They know that what He plans is only good.
7. How does God’s perfect timing help God’s people trust in Him? They know that He knows exactly when things should happen.
8. What can God’s people always depend on Him to do for them, even if it is very hard? To take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do.
9. Why won’t God’s people trust God perfectly while they live on earth? Because they are still sinners.
10. Who helps God’s people trust in Him? The Holy Spirit, working in their hearts.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
1. What did Abram have to trust the Lord about? That He would take care of him, even though he had left his family and Nannar, the god he had grown up worshiping. That He would one day fulfill His promises to give Canaan to his family and would make them into a great nation.
2. How did Abram show he trusted the Lord? He was willing to leave his family, Nannar and follow the Lord to the land he did not even know. He worshiped rather than doubted the Lord, even though he had no idea how the Lord would bring about His promises.

Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”
This verse encourages God’s people to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.
Life Application Questions
1. What are some times when it is hard for us to trust in the Lord? Answers vary.
2. What should God’s people do when it is hard to trust in the Lord? Tell others and have them pray for them; ask the Lord to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them trust Him.
3. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea? Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea? Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea? Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea? Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.

Gospel Question
The first step in trusting God is trusting Him to be our Savior? Why do we need to do this? How do we do this? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
RED LIGHT GREEN LIGHT...FOR STORKS

Big Idea Game

Materials
Tape
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

Preparing the Game
Supplement the Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Big Idea Concepts to their lives.

Write the Big Idea questions on small thin strips of paper and put them in the bag/bowl.

Tape a starting line and finish line at each end of the room.

Playing the Game
Have all the children stand facing you on the starting line. Tell them that you are the traffic light controller for storks. When you say “Green light” they can move forward with your back towards them. But when you say “Red light” they must freeze in stork position, balancing on one leg. You will turn around quickly and try to catch anyone moving or off balance. These children will choose a question to ask the class. If the class gets it right, then the children can join the game back at Start. If they do not, then the children have to wait it out until another round when a correct answer is given. Whoever makes it to the finish line first becomes the new traffic light controller for storks.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Scripture
1. What does it mean to trust in the LORD? To have so much confidence in God’s love, power, goodness, wisdom & timing in all things, that you can rest joyfully in Him, even in very hard times.
2. What does is our “heart”? This kind of heart is not the kind that beats. It is the part of you that thinks, feels, loves, and can know God.
3. What does it mean to trust the LORD with all of your heart? It means that you don’t just do things that make it looks like you trust God, but that deep inside you really, really believe that you can trust Him. Because you trust Him with all of your heart, that changes the way you think and feel about things on the inside, and the way you act on the outside—even in very hard times.
4. What does it mean to “lean on your own understanding”? It means to depend only on what you know about something.
5. What does it mean to acknowledge God in all our ways? It means to remember that only God is completely good, wise, loving and powerful. Only He knows the reasons for everything that happens to us.
6. Why should we acknowledge God in our ways rather than lean on our own understanding? Because we are just humans and can’t understand so many things. Only God knows enough to really understand what is best and is powerful enough to do it.
7. What does it mean for God to make our paths straight? It doesn’t mean that He will make paths or roads that we walk on without curves. It means that He will show us what to do, even though we don’t understand everything.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people are to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? What did Abram have to trust the Lord about, rather than lean on her own understanding? How He—not Nannar or the Canaanite idols—would take care of him and prosper him; that He would take care of him even though he had left all his family behind; that would one day give him Canaan and make his family into a great nation.

Life Application
1. What is something that you or someone you know has to trust God about right now? How could you encourage them to trust God instead of worrying?
2. What is the best first step in trusting God for all of us? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being always worthy of being trusted.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. We love to do things our own way. We love to trust in our own understanding. Too often we do not want to trust in God or do things His way. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can thank God that when we trust in Him that He will show us what He wants us to do. We do not have to rely on our own understanding.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit that we might trust in Him and not on our own understanding to show us what He wants us to do.

Gospel Question
All people are sinners who deserve God's punishment for their sins. What do we all need to trust Jesus to do for us? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Preparing the Children for the Scripture Verse Game
Introduce and Practice Shortened Games version before playing game.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
**Ball Circle Toss**

Scripture Verse Game

**Materials**
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
Foam or other soft surface ball

**Preparing the Game**
None.

**Learning the Verse**
Hold up the Scripture Verse sign from the Big Idea Folder for all the children to see. Read it slowly with them reading along with you. Remind them of the meaning of the verse, noting key words that may need explaining. Practice saying the verse with the children until they are fairly confident saying it from memory, probably 4 or 5 times.

**Playing the Game**
Have the children spread out in a circle, arm’s length apart. Explain that everyone together will chant the verse slowly, word by word, and toss the ball to another child with each word chanted. They want to try to chant the whole verse without dropping the ball. Speed up the pace of the chanting as the children get good at chanting and catching.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

**Alternative Game Versions**
1) Individual chant version: After the children can get through the verse without dropping the ball and chanting the verse together, have them try to get through the entire verse with only the person throwing the ball saying the next word.
2) No Hands Version: Have the children sit on the floor and roll the ball to each other. They must try to trap the ball with their legs, etc. (no hands) instead of trying to catch it.

**Optional Closing Activity**
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Trust in the Lord: Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all of your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding,
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.
Trust in the LORD with all your heart!
Trust the LORD with all your heart!

Understanding the Scripture

1. What does it mean to trust in the LORD? To have so much confidence in God’s love, power, goodness, wisdom & timing in all things, that you can rest joyfully in Him, even in very hard times.
2. What does it mean to “heart”? This kind of heart is not the kind that beats. It is the part of you that thinks, feels, loves, and can know God.
3. What does it mean to trust the LORD with all of your heart? It means that you don’t just do things that make it look like you trust God, but that deep inside you really, really believe that you can trust Him. Because you trust Him with all of your heart, that changes the way you think and feel about things on the inside, and the way you act on the outside—even in very hard times.
4. What does it mean to “lean on your own understanding”? It means to depend only on what you know about something.
5. What does it mean to acknowledge God in all our ways? It means to remember that only God is completely good, wise, loving and powerful. Only He knows the reasons for everything that happens to us.
6. Why should we acknowledge God in our ways rather than lean on our own understanding? Because we are just humans and can’t understand so many things. Only God knows enough to really understand what is best and is powerful enough to do it.
7. What does it mean for God to make our paths straight? It doesn’t mean that He will make paths or roads that we walk on without curves. It means that He will show us what to do, even though we don’t understand everything.

Big Idea Connection

What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people are to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.

Story Connection

What does the verse have to do with our story? What did Abram have to trust the Lord about, rather than lean on her own understanding? How He—not Nannar or the Canaanite idols—would take care of him and prosper him; that He would take care of him even though he had left all his family behind; that would one day give him Canaan and make his family into a great nation.

Life Application

1. What is something that you or someone you know has to trust God about right now? How could you encourage them to trust God instead of worrying?
2. What is the best first step in trusting God for all of us? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being always worthy of being trusted.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   That we are all sinners. We love to do things our own way. We love to trust in our own understanding. Too often we do not want to trust in God or do things His way. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can thank God that when we trust in Him that He will show us what He wants us to do. We do not have to rely on our own understanding.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit that we might trust in Him and not on our own understanding to show us what He wants us to do.

Gospel Question
All people are sinners who deserve God’s punishment for their sins. What do we all need to trust Jesus to do for us? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing the song.
Song Game

Materials
Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards
Blindfold

Preparing the Game
None.

Playing the Game
Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: “Children, we are going hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it… with a little help from the rest of us!”

Choose someone to be “It” and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it’s hidden, “It” can remove the blindfold and begin to look.

The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when “It” gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when “It” gets further from the sign.

When “It” finds the hidden clue, another “It” is chosen and play begins again.
Trust and Obey

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey. (Refrain)

Understanding the Song
1. What are the “burdens, sorrows and toil, grief, loss, frown, cross” the song is talking about? “Burdens” and “toil” are things that are difficult things we must do. “Sorrows” and “frown” mean sad things in our lives. “Loss” is losing someone/something we love, and “grief” is what we feel when we’ve lost it. The sadness we feel after something bad has happened. A “cross” is something hard that God has us suffer through for His good purposes, just like Jesus suffered and died on the cross for God’s good purposes. This song is about the hard things in life that happen to us or people we love and how hard they are for us to deal with.
2. Who is the “we” in this song? Christians: people who have confessed their sins to God, turned from them and now trust in Jesus as their Savior, living their lives for Him.
3. What will God do with every burden, sorrow and toil? Richly repay them.
4. How will God richly repay them, in money or something else? He will bless them by using them for His glory and our good and the good of others. In heaven, He promises to give us even greater blessings that we cannot imagine.
5. What does God want us to do as we go through these hard things? Trust and obey.
6. What does it mean to trust and obey? To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.
7. Why is it especially hard to keep trusting and obeying when hard things happen to us? Because many times we don’t understand God’s good purposes in the hard things that happen and it is easy to start doubting that He knows best and stop doing the things He has told us to do.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Trust Him? God is the only one who perfectly knows and understand His plans. Many times God’s people must trust Him and obey Him when there are many things they cannot understand. As hard as this may be at times, they know that because God is completely powerful, wise, good, and perfect in His timing, they can always trust that He knows best. This is the way to be “happy in Jesus.”

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Abram had the sorrow of leaving his country, culture, and even family to obey the Lord. Even though he was yet to see the Lord fulfill His promises to him, Abram believed in His complete goodness, power, wisdom and timing and trusted in Him.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”
Many times it is very hard to trust God when we have to bear hard “burdens” or sorrows. Many times God’s people do not understand why they have to go through them or what good thing God is doing through them. But God’s people know that they do not have to lean on their own understanding. Instead, they trust in the LORD with all their heart and obey whatever it is they know He wants them to do. They can trust that God will make their paths straight: He will help them to obey Him and He will use everything they are going through for their good and His glory.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people today be affected by the message of this song?
They can praise God for being completely worthy of their trust even in very hard times. They can ask Him to send His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them keep on trusting and obeying Him, no matter what.
2. How can we become God’s people?
By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being completely trustworthy.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not want to trust God or obey Him. We grumble and complain when we go through hard things instead of wanting God to work through them for His glory or our good.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for using every single burden and sorrow that His people go through for their good and His glory.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts to help us to trust Him and obey Him with every single burden we bear or sorrow we share.

Gospel Question
We are all sinners who have not trusted and obeyed God. What do we deserve? How can we be saved?
What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
Materials
Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards
Blindfold

Preparing the Game
None.

Playing the Game
Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: “Children, we are going hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it… with a little help from the rest of us!”

Choose someone to be “It” and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it’s hidden, “It” can remove the blindfold and begin to look.

The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when “It” gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when “It” gets further from the sign.

When “It” finds the hidden clue, another “It” is chosen and play begins again.
An Altar to the LORD

1. What Is It? (Presenter 1)

An Altar to the LORD

2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)

Where? In Canaan,

Who? Abram

Did What? Built

With the Big Idea Object? An altar to the LORD

Why? To make a sacrifice and worship the LORD, instead of the idols of Canaan.

3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Trust Him. Abram obeyed the LORD and went to the Canaan only to find many people lived there who worshipped idols. Abram trusted God to keep His promises to give his family the land and to bless all people through one of his children.

4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)

God’s people can trust God to keep His promises to them, even before they see how He will do it.
An Altar to the LORD

Description
The children will make an altar out of sticks/toothpicks and salt dough.

Materials
4 Cups of Flour
   1 Cup of Salt
   1 1/2 Cups of Hot Water
   Twigs or toothpicks (flat ended kind, preferably)
1 4” by 4” piece of cereal box or poster board per craft
Extra salt dough or sheep picture and markers, if desired

Preparing the Craft
1. Make the salt dough by combining the first three ingredients and kneading well. Store in container until ready to use.
2. Cut cereal box/poster board into 4” squares, using template provided, if desired.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children roll pieces of salt dough into stones and form an altar by stacking them on top of each other. Use the piece of cardboard as the base of the altar.
3. Add toothpicks or twigs across the top of altar, pressing into salt dough to secure in place.
4. If desired, color in the sheep picture and put it on top of the altar; or, take another piece of salt dough and make a bull, sheep or bird shape, as one of these probably would have been used as a sacrifice by Abram.

Template for altar base
You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Trust Him.

Trusting God means resting joyfully in God's care and plan. God's people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. He only has them do what is for His glory and their good. He is always able to take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard. God's people know that they will not trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. But they know that God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, will help them to trust God more and more.

We thought about Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

I also prayed for you during ACTS time. Here are 4 things related to the Big Idea we prayed for in our ACTS prayer time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

A Praise God for being completely trustworthy.

C Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.

T Thank God for ways He has seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.

S Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and gratefully trust Him, even when our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we may take joy in His trustworthiness and gratefully trust Him, even when our own Savior.

Yours Sincerely,
VIPP Game

**Materials**
The VIPP information sheets and clip art for two or more VIPPS, preferably of the same type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)
Tape
Different color construction paper for each picture.

**Preparing the Game**
Fill in the clue sheets for the VIPPs you are using. If desired, use a photocopier to reduce down the size of each clue sheet to a smaller size for easier use. Put the clue sheets for the VIPPS in a bag, except for the sheets with the names and pictures. Mix up.

Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag, except for the names and pictures. Mix up.

Use tape to put up the pictures of each VIPP on a piece of construction paper. Tape each up in a different location/wall around the room.

**Playing the Game**

*Reveal, then Review Version:*

**Reveal:** Tell them about each of the VIPPs you are using in the game, showing them the clues and reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet for each of them.

**Review:** Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag. Mix up. Have children sit down, with their legs in front of them and their hands propped behind them. Show them how to get in crab position and try moving around. (Moving on hands and feet, with front side facing up). Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and that they are to crab-crawl their way to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up.

*Get Clues, Then Guess Version:*

**Get Clues:** Put the clues for the VIPPS in the bag/bowl and mix up. Read them the VIPP information sheets (or to make it even harder, don't!).

**Guess:** Have children sit down, with their legs in front of them and their hands propped behind them. Show them how to get in crab position and try moving around. (Moving on hands and feet, with the front side facing up). Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and that they are to crab-crawl their way to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up. Review the correctly finished profiles of each VIPP and information sheets at the end.